Manitoba Conservation

Conservation Manitoba

Annual Report 2006-2007

Rapport annuel 2006-2007

Manitoba

MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

The Honourable John Harvard, C.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
Government House
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Your Honour:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Manitoba Department of Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007.

The report details the Department's many accomplishments and activities as we fulfill our mandate of protecting the environment while sustaining and conserving the abundant natural resources we enjoy as Manitobans.

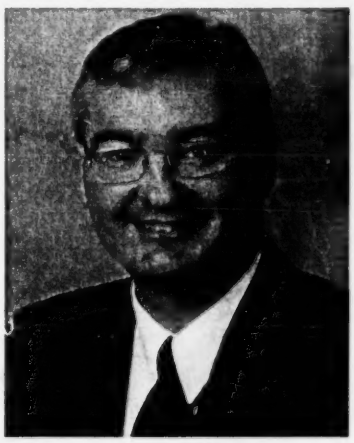
The Department serves Manitobans and its visitors throughout our vast province and within our diverse ecosystems. We work together with the public to meet the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development.

The staff of Manitoba Conservation are dedicated to providing effective services in our parks, communities and rural and northern areas and I hope the detailed information contained in this Annual Report sheds some light on the results of our programming and the many important related activities that take place on an ongoing basis around the Province.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Struthers

Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation



Manitoba

Deputy Minister of
Conservation

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada
R3C 0V8

The Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation
330 Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Manitoba Department of Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2007.

The Department is committed to delivering quality programs and services to protect our environment and manage natural resources in a sustainable way, considering various community interests. The Annual Report provides an overview of the various programs and activities carried out in the 2006/07 fiscal year, highlighting key results, including:

- A Joint Management of Resources Agreement was signed by the Department and Opaskwayak Cree Nation in February 2007, formally recognizing the Nation's traditional territory and committing to cooperatively manage the area's renewable resources.

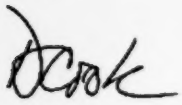
- The new made-in-Manitoba Parks Reservation System was deployed in 2006, improving access to reserve campsites through the internet. The system recorded over 47,000 reservations or about 10,000 more than with the previous service in 2005. The system continues to be improved to make the camping experience even more convenient for Manitobans and tourists. Staff were also rewarded for their efforts with a Project Management Institute Award and a Manitoba Service Excellence Award.

- Wildlife and Ecosystem management and protection continued through licensed hunting programs as well as consultative and educational approaches to safely address human interaction with problem wildlife such as urban deer and bear encounters.

- A new Tire Stewardship Regulation was developed through consultative processes that led to a new model for industry responsibility for scrap tire management. Tire Stewardship Manitoba began development of a program plan in 2006 that will be reviewed prior to implementation that is expected to occur in 2007/08.

Many more highlights and details are contained in the attached report on the Department's operations, activities and results for the 2006/07 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Cook
Deputy Minister

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MANITOBA CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION CHART
AS OF APRIL 1, 2006

FIGURE 1

ORGANIGRAMME
EN VIGUEUR LE 1er AVRIL, 2006

Ministre
Stan Struthers
Conseil de gestion des caribous de Beverly et de Qamanirjuaq
Comité consultatif sur les réserves écologiques
Comité consultatif de la zone de gestion de la faune Seskersm
Comité consultatif sur les espèces en voie de disparition
Conseil d'arbitrage de la Direction des forêts
Comission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et l'Ontario
Table ronde manitobaine sur le développement durable
Comité de consultation sur la délivrance des permis et des licences et d'appel des décisions afférentes
Commission consultative du Whiteshell
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et le Nunavut
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et la Saskatchewan
Commission de protection de l'environnement
Corporation manitobaine de gestion des déchets dangereux
Sous-ministre
Don Cook
Sous-ministre adjoint
Opérations régionales
B. Bremner
Sous-ministre adjoint
Programmes des conservation
F. Meier
Sous-ministre adjoint
Gérance de l'environnement
S. Scrafield
Directeur
Direction générale des ressources humaines
C. McGregor
Sous-ministre adjoint
Corporate Services
B. Gray
Région de l'Est
Région du Nord-Est
Région du Nord-Ouest
Région d'Entre-les-Lacs
Parcs et réserves naturelles
Direction des forêts
Direction des évaluations environnementales et des licences
Politique et gestion durable des ressources
Relations avec la communauté autochtone
Ressources humaines
Service financier
Soutien administratif
Technologie de l'information
Région de l'Ouest
Services de soutien régional
Région de la Rivière Rouge
Direction de la protection de la faune et des écosystèmes
Direction des terres domaniales
Direction de la prévention de la pollution
Section de la qualité de l'air
Télédétection et cartographie
Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin
Services des levés
Service de bibliothèque
Infographie
Centre de distribution des produits
Sécurité et hygiène du travail
Opérations de l'environnement
Services de soutien de l'élevage
Programme de prévention des incendies et d'intervention d'urgence

FIGURE 2

HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Operations

- Firearms and Defensive Tactics qualification and recertification for 125 Natural Resource Officers, 52 Assistant Resource Officers and 32 returning Park Patrol Officers was completed regionally by Basic firearms Instructors and defensive Tactics instructors.

- Through successful covert operations, the special investigations unit detected and prosecuted illegal activities involving commercial activity related to fish sales in the Winnipeg area. The unit successfully concluded a 12-month undercover operation involving illegal fish sales, a short term undercover investigation involving the sale of wild meat, and the illegal trade in bear parts.

- Thirty-four new Park Patrol Officers were hired to provide safety and security services in provincial parks for the summer months.

- Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) and Manitoba Conservation entered into a Joint Management of Resources Agreement at a signing ceremony in February 2007. The Agreement is a formal recognition of OCN's traditional territory and commitment to cooperatively manage the area's renewable resources. Funding of $225.0 over 3 years has been provided to support Board operational costs and resource management projects.

- Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) continues to be a highly popular wildlife viewing area, with over 200,000 visitors touring the area on an annual basis. A number of infrastructure improvements were undertaken in 2006, including the construction of a new road to the north mound viewing site, installation of a new WMA entrance sign and the development of an interpretive kiosk and signage.

- The Narcisse Snake Dens is one of the world's most significant snake viewing areas, with approximately 50,000 visitors and 2,000 school children touring the site in 2006. The walking trail system was upgraded with placement of approximately 1 kilometre of crushed limestone base. Project funding support, in the amount of $30,000, was provided by the Watchable Wildlife Program.

- The 2006 Polar Bear Alert Program was again successful, with 62 polar bears being handled. The number of recorded occurrences was 179, of which 45% occurred in the month of November. The last polar bear was released from the Polar Bear Compound on November 30. There was additional work completed on the Polar Bear Compound, with the construction of 5 new air-conditioned holding cells and a separate holding area to house orphaned polar bear cubs. This year was the 2nd year that an ice out survey was completed along the Hudson Bay coastline for population number and distribution. A total of 119 polar bears were counted at the end of July, along the coast. A September coastal survey was completed as well with a total of 128 polar bears counted.

- The Environmental Remediation Program has initiated a process to confirm the cost of remediating impacted sites that are department-owned, or abandoned or orphaned sites for which the department may become responsible. Initial estimates place these costs at approximately $39 million.

- Owners and operators of more than 2100 petroleum storage facilities are being provided with information and technical advice as they undertake a phased-in upgrade schedule that will ensure their facilities meet national standards by 2012. The Petroleum Storage Program also ensures storage tanks that are either inactive or not able to be upgraded to current standards are properly removed by licensed technicians.

- The Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation was amended in November 2006 in order to regulate land application of manure sources of phosphorus. Additionally, in December 2006 a pause was placed on further expansion of the pig industry.

Cottage Lots Initiative

- Since the program's inception in 2004, Manitoba has offered 1,003 new cottage lots; 61 lots for lease in Provincial Parks, and 942 lots for sale on Crown Lands.
- In 2006 two public draws were held for 1,308 cottage lots (including 374 new lots).
- In the two draws a total of 1,395 cottage lot applications were received, and there were an additional 236 new cottage lot owners.
- To date Manitoba has sold/leased over 58% of all lots offered.
- Each draw offers newly-offered or existing lots from prior draws that were not allocated.
- Since 2004, the program has generated over $10.0 million in revenue and has created long-term cottaging impacts such as economic benefits to the municipalities in relation to taxes, employment opportunities for trades and construction purchases.

Parks and Natural Areas

- A new, made-in-Manitoba Parks Reservation system was deployed in 2006. This new service won the 2007 Project Management Institute (Manitoba) Award and the Manitoba Service Excellence Team Award. Reservations were made available through a call centre, on-line or through 11 campground offices in 2006. Improvements to the system included a more flexible search capability, more detailed campground maps and a more user-friendly display of available sites that makes it easier than ever to book a campsite in Manitoba's parks. The system recorded over 47,000 reservations or about 10,000 more than with the previous service in 2005.
- 911 emergency telephone service was introduced to Birds Hill, Grand Beach and the southern portion of Whiteshell Provincial Park.
- The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) continued work to identify land owned by conservation agencies within agro-Manitoba that have the potential to become protected areas. To that end, a $200,000 grant was awarded to the Nature Conservancy of Canada in support of their "Campaign for Conservation". PAI was also involved in the establishment of 11,859 hectares of new protected areas.
- The First Nations and public consultation processes required to add the important colonial nesting bird habitat of the Cormorant Islands to the Grand Island Park Reserve, and to renew the present Park Reserve status, were completed and the Park Reserve renewed for an additional five years;
- The First Nations and public consultation processes required to renew the present Park Reserve status for Walter Cook Caves, Pelican Islands, Goose Islands, Sturgeon Bay, Pemmican Island and Kinwow Bay Park Reserves were completed, and the Park Reserves renewed for an additional five years.

Forestry

- A pilot project was initiated to determine the usefulness of high quality, variable high resolution imagery for forestry related applications as related to the cost of acquisition. A least cost vendor was identified to provide 10cm, 20cm, 30cm, 45cm and 65cm resolution digital images. Approximately 190 mosaics were obtained and reviewed, and several potential uses were identified, such as:
  - harvest and burn updates;
  - detection of diseases, such as dwarf mistletoe and root disease;
  - spray block layout for vegetation management and budworm;
  - free to grow surveys, especially in remote locations;
  - Dutch elm disease cost sharing communities; and
  - defoliation detection

- A new *Forest Health Protection Act* was drafted in 2006. The purpose of the new legislation is to protect Manitoba's urban and rural forests from all invasive pests by providing the Crown the ability to restrict the importation and movement of a forest threat and the ability to control or eradicate an infestation if one occurs. The *Forest Health Protection Act* will repeal the existing *Dutch Elm Disease Act*. It is expected that the new legislation will be enacted in 2007/2008.

- The Forest Practices Committee, comprised of representatives from other branches and departments of the Manitoba government and forest industry, continued to develop guidelines for forestry practices. A Riparian Workshop was organized by the Sustainable Forest Management Network in conjunction with the Manitoba Forest Practices Committee.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

- Population trends of various species in 2006:
  - Upland Game Birds - stable
  - White-tailed Deer – increased
  - Black Bear – stable
  - Moose – stable
  - Elk – decreased slightly (due in part to TB control in western Manitoba)
  - Woodland Caribou – stable
  - Wolverine – stable
  - Prairie ducks – increased
  - Geese – increasing annually
  - Wood Bison – increased
  - Peregrine Falcon – increased
  - Dakota Skipper – decreased
  - Piping Plover – decreased
  - Burrowing Owls – increased
  - Great Grey Owls – increased
  - Ferruginous Hawks – decreased
  - Loggerhead Shrikes – decreased
  - Sprague's Pipit – stable
  - Baird's Sparrow – decreased

- The demand for foreign resident hunting licences continued to be strong. Approximately 5,300 game bird, 2,100 bear, 1,400 deer, 250 caribou, and 170 moose licences were purchased in 2006.

- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch, in consultation with the municipalities around Winnipeg, developed a Near-Urban Wildlife Strategy to address human safety and property damage concerns, as well as to maintain and expand hunting opportunities in the near-urban area. This is an ongoing

program. Future emphasis will be directed at managing expanding wildlife populations and related human/wildlife conflicts in the urban-agricultural setting around Winnipeg.

- The Department continued its participation in the Action Plan for Bovine Tuberculosis Management in Manitoba and maintained surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease.

- Over 134,000 Canada geese staged inside the City of Winnipeg in the fall of 2006. A working group on problem urban wildlife is addressing the many concerns associated with this recent phenomenon, in conjunction with other responsible agencies such as Transport Canada, Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service), and the Government of Ontario.

- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch co-operated with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiative and the CCWHC Centre in monitoring migratory waterfowl for the presence of avian influenza. More than 1,000 hunter shot waterfowl were sampled and no highly pathogenic avian influenza was detected.

- Production and printing of "Naturescape Manitoba" was completed in 2006. A total of 3,500 copies of this book were printed as part of the co-operative Capital Region Urban Habitat Stewardship Project.

- Approximately 8,000 hectares of the newly designated Delta Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) were protected from mining, logging and hydro development under the Protected Areas Initiative.

- Funding from Wildlife Habitat Canada enabled the purchase of three additional parcels of land to add to the Delta Marsh WMA, in co-operation with Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

- In 2006/07, $734,200 in federal funding was received for Habitat Stewardship Program projects in Manitoba. Matching funds and in-kind contributions totalling $768,335 were provided by the province, industry and community groups in support of these projects.

- The nationally rare Fascicled Ironweed was rediscovered in two locations along the Rat River, the first time the plant has been confirmed in Manitoba since 1958.

- The national recovery strategy for the western prairie fringed-orchid was completed, led by Manitoba Conservation; participation on seven additional vascular plant and lichen national recovery teams in partnership with federal and provincial agencies, non-government organizations, and other experts.

Pollution Prevention

- Regulated programs developed under *The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act* recycled 90,543 tonnes of material in 2006/07, including 11,753 tonnes of rubber from scrap tires, over 64,766 tonnes of packaging and paper from residences and 14,024 tonnes of used oil products. In addition to the materials being recycled by regulation, a thriving private sector recycling industry in Manitoba exists, that Statistics Canada says recycled 250,880 tonnes of material in 2002, the latest year for which information is available.

- A new Tire Stewardship Regulation under *The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act* was passed in November 2006. *Tire Stewardship Regulation, 2006* places responsibility for managing scrap tires on industry. A new association, Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM) began development of a program plan to manage scrap tires in Manitoba.

Environmental Stewardship Division

- The Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch approved 5 licenses for new wind farms, which also requires bird and bat mortality monitoring.

- The Aboriginal Relations Branch participated in meaningful consultation with those people whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by Wuskwatim Generation Station and Transmission Line Projects; Louisiana Pacific Forest Management Plan; and the Southern Hardwood Development Project/First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership Forest Management Licence. Aboriginal Relations Branch participated as members of the Crown Consultation Teams and the Crown Consultation Steering Committees.

- The Aboriginal Relations Branch provided leadership to the Manitoba Model Forest in the development of a new five-year funding program with Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Services.

- The Aboriginal Relations Branch established working partnership with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Center and the Fur Institute of Canada to develop a land based curriculum entitled *Reconnecting to the Land* that will implemented with the Fisher River Cree Nation

Lands

- 2006/07 signified the greatest amount of Crown land transferred in a single year to Canada for Treaty Land Entitlement purposes to date. A total of 14 sites involving approximately 80,000 acres of Crown land were transferred.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Administration and Finance Division provides executive management of programs and management services, including financial, human resource, computer, and administrative support.

Minister's Salary

The Minister's Salary provides the Minister with additional compensation to which an individual appointed to Executive Council is entitled.

Table AF.1
12.1(a) Minister's Salary

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	30.3	1.00	30.4	(0.1)	
Total 12.1(a)	**30.3**	**1.00**	**30.4**	**(0.1)**	

Executive Support

This area comprises support staff in the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Conservation.

The purpose of Executive Support is to develop, implement and oversee policies and programs which are designed to attain, over the long term, the goals set out in the Department's role and mission statement, advise the Minister on matters relating to the Department, provide policy direction for departmental programs, co-ordinate departmental communications activities and initiatives, and provide administrative support for the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister.

Table AF.2
12.1(b) Executive Support

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	814.8	9.00	774.2	40.6	
Other Expenditures	127.6		185.4	(57.8)	
Total 12.1(b)	**942.4**	**9.00**	**959.6**	**(17.2)**	

Corporate Services

Corporate Services Division provides shared services between the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship including administrative, financial, workplace safety, health and risk management, equipment warehouse, library and public information services and information technology services. Human Resource services are provided through a service shared with other departments.

Administrative services include fleet vehicle coordination and disposition, office accommodation and parking administration, records management and coordination of departmental efforts at French language services and compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

The Workplace, Safety, Health and Risk Management section provides leadership, direction and support to the departments and senior management on compliance with recognized standards in these areas through policies, monitoring and training.

The Conservation and Environment Library supports access to print and electronic specialized information resources for Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Environment Canada in Winnipeg, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, and for the public. Interlibrary loans are coordinated with other Manitoba libraries and educational institutions. Current information related to the mandates of each partner organization is made available to staff and to the public.

The Departmental warehouse is the equipment/supply storage and mobilization point for branches and Fire Operations Centre. In emergencies, such as fire and flood, it becomes the logistical support base for all equipment.

The following activities were carried out in 2006/07.

- 1,441 requests under *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* were received in 2006. The requests were almost entirely related to one issue and were received in December of 2006 resulting in the Department appealing to the Ombudsman for an extension which was received.
- In 2006/07, the library responded to over 2,500 inquiries for information.
- The Department continues to implement its French Language Services Plan to reflect current operations and in keeping with the *Chartier Report* on French language services. Translation of documents and the Website continues. The department continues to participate in the Bilingual Service Centres.
- The Workplace Safety and Health unit coordinated input and prepared drafts of a comprehensive policy manual that was scheduled for release prior to summer seasonal operations.

Table AF.3
12.1(c) Corporate Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,094.1	20.00	1,159.1	(65.0)	
Other Expenditures	1,366.9		1,224.4	142.5	1.
Total 12.1(c)	**2,461.0**	**20.00**	**2,383.5**	**77.5**	

1. Increase in Other Expenditures is due to legal costs.

Financial Services Branch

Licensing Section managed a province-wide network of 814 private and 138 departmental licence vendors through which convenient access was provided to the public for angling, hunting, migratory waterfowl, park vehicle entry, trapping, and various other licences and permits. For the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, total sales recorded through Licensing Section numbered 552,913 for a total of $13,661,004 for the net value of transactions. Vendor activity for the same period included 82 new appointments, 87 discontinuances, 24 suspensions, and 30 reinstatements. A total of 747 private vendors are located in rural areas.

Draws for Manitoba residents are conducted each year to allocate hunting opportunities for elk and moose in areas of limited availability. The annual multi-year priority licence draw system was again conducted with 7,949 applicants and 4,733 licences were awarded.

Revenue Management section is responsible for managing the collection, security, deposit and reporting of revenue for over 50 revenue streams for the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. The section also provides assistance with the delivery of various programs including the Cottage Lot Draw, Seasonal Camping and the Parks Reservation Service. The section's Winnipeg Cashier's Office handled 8,000 direct sales totaling $5,221,800 and processed over 22,200 mailed remittances from customers and departmental field offices totaling $32,732,000. FineLine Solutions processed over 8,000 Conservation invoice payments totaling $4,311,800, allowing for prompt deposit of funds and electronic updating of client records. Payment options available to these clients included: in person at Conservation offices and most financial institutions, bank machine, on-line and telephone banking. Credit cards were accepted at 45 locations, of which 37 also accepted debit cards.

The Public Information section is responsible for providing information to the public regarding the numerous programs delivered by the Departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. This service is provided in person, by telephone, Internet and mail. The section responded to the following requests for information and assistance:

- 45,035 direct telephone requests to the Information Officers
- 40,743 calls were received by the automated Public Information Line of which 9,033 where handled directly by the line.
- 74,115 in person requests
- 843 requests through the Internet
- 5,650 information packages mailed.

The Public Information section also supplied all regional and district offices with the majority of publications that are distributed by the Department of Conservation, and provided program assistance to branches such as, accepting and recording Seasonal Camping and Cottage Lot Draw applications and funds.

Contract Management Section

During the 2006/07 fiscal year, the Contract Management Section administered contracts for:

- Construction,
- Engineering,
- Environmental Consulting,
- Fee for Service Agreements and,
- Others

During the 2006/07 fiscal year, the Contract Management Section administered Grants to Organizations from several Funds:

- Special Conservation Fund,
- Fisheries Enhancement Initiative,
- Northern Development Strategy Fund,
- Water Stewardship Fund,
- General Program Grants.

During the 2006/07 fiscal year the Contract Management Section provided advice and support to Departmental staff regarding:

- Contractual obligations,
- Tendering/Bid opening advice and support,
- Verification of contractor insurance and bonding,
- Contract/Grant monitoring, review, and payment,
- Consolidation and legal review of contract templates,
- Grant Accountability advice and support,
- Specialized financial reports for:
  - Departmental Executive
  - Provincial Auditors
  - Manitoba Finance
  - Treasury Board
  - Contractors and Consultants

Table AF.4

12.1(d) Financial Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,242.6	24.33	1,137.6	105.0	
Other Expenditures	349.5		388.5	(39.0)	
Total 12.1(d)	**1,592.1**	**24.33**	**1,526.1**	**66.0**	

Human Resource Services

Staffing

- Staffing activity included 957 appointments, including competitions, direct appointments, green team, term extensions and departmental hires and recalls. Guidance and advice were provided on Departmental Employee staffing, which has been delegated to managers.

Labour/Employee Relations

- Provided guidance and advice to management in the completion of 210 labour relations cases, including appropriate discipline, and negotiating settlements to resolve issues before the formal grievance stage. There were 12 formal grievances and selection appeals completed.

Classification

- Classification activity included 111 position classification reviews completed. There was 1 classification appeal.
- Provided direction on outstanding Resource Technician position anomalies to complete the Resource Technician series review.

Pay and Benefits

- Processed pay and benefits for more than 2158 staff.
- Provided guidance and advice on pay administration issues.

Employment Equity

- Employment Equity continues to be a consideration in all staffing activities.
- Participation in Career Fairs
- Liaison with Schools and organizations to enhance awareness of employment opportunities with Conservation.

Renewal Initiatives

- Participate in the Aboriginal Management Development Program with the Civil Service Commission
- Participate in the Career Gateway Program with the Civil Service Commission
- Participate in the Women's Leadership Program and the Leadership Development Initiative.

Table AF.5
Employment Equity Representation

Fiscal Year	Total		Male		Female		Aboriginal		Persons w. Disability		Visible Minority	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2004-05	2109	100	1315	62.4	794	37/6	395	18.7	39	1.8	23	1.1
2005-06	2133	100	1337	62.7	796	37.3	390	18.3	23	1.1	38	1.8
2006-07	2158	100	1338	62	820	38	367	17	36	17	26	1.2

Table AF.6

12.1(e) Human Resource Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,077.3	19.00	1,262.6	(185.3)	1.
Other Expenditures	150.4		148.3	2.1	
Total 12.1(e)	**1,227.7**	**19.00**	**1,410.9**	**(183.2)**	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to lower requirements due to unanticipated vacancies.

Information Technology Services

The Branch provides internal information technology services and expertise, including technology and business consulting, systems analysis, design, implementation, corporate database management, and development and management of a yearly department-wide information technology systems plan. The Branch develops and maintains the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) spatial data warehouse.

The following key activities were carried out in 2006/07.

- The IT Branch continued the development and enhancements to several business applications including a custom web site for the cottage lot draw program, water licensing application, the Environment Management System, the Vendor Accounting System, the Headquarters Enforcement System, the hydrological monitoring system, and the water well drilling management application, and several other departmental business applications.

- The ITS Branch assisted in the development of enhancements to the new Parks reservation system to expand its operational capabilities and deployed additional computers in campground offices.

- The IT Branch continued enhancements to the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) data warehouse which is available online to the general public via the Intranet. This repository is being significantly enhanced with new data sets and new user interfaces. The MLI warehouse contains all government geospatial GIS data and related databases and meta-data, with interactive mapping tools. The data warehouse now has over 10,000 registered users. A new interactive map server was configured to provide seamless access of data for viewing and product downloading. A new web interface was also developed in conjunction with the Federal Government Geo-Connections to provide for a meta data search capability of Manitoba data through their web portal.

- The ITS Branch continued development on additional Web pages to meet the needs of the public.

Table AF.7
12.1(f) Information Technology Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,111.1	15.00	1,067.8	43.3	
Other Expenditures	95.1		110.0	(14.9)	
Total 12.1(f)	**1,206.2**	**15.00**	**1,177.8**	**28.4**	

Clean Environment Commission

Under *The Environment Act*, The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) provides a mechanism through which the public can participate in environmental decision making. The Commission conducts public reviews and hearings into matters of environmental concern and provides advice and recommendations to the Minister. The Commission, while reporting directly to the Minister, is independent of the Department.

The Commission issues its own Annual Report with information on its mandate and operations. Copies can be obtained from the CEC at 305 – 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8. The CEC can be contacted at 204-956-7091 or toll free at 1-800-597-3556 or by fax at 204-945-0090. The CEC's web site is www.cecmanitoba.ca.

Table AF.8
12.1(g) Clean Environment Commission

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	276.9	3.00	241.0	35.9	
Other Expenditures	269.9		342.6	(72.7)	1.
Total 12.1(g)	**546.8**	**3.00**	**583.6**	**(36.8)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to reduced operating costs as a result of not proceeding as planned with the OlyWest hearings.

Support Services

Computer Graphics

The unit provides Geographic Information System (GIS), graphic design and Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CAD) services to Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship. The GIS component of Computer Graphics is responsible for providing expertise in the creation of spatial data, spatial data analyses, and preparation of customized geo-referenced maps. The Graphic Design component produces informational material required for internally supporting various programs, policies, and initiatives. Specialized CAD services include preparation of engineering plans for capital works and infrastructure maintenance projects.

The unit completed 137 requests for service.

The following key activities were carried out 2006/07:

- Provided design, layout and illustration services to all programs areas through complete publication of several booklets and brochures. Some of the documents that were designed and published are:
    - Naturescape Manitoba
    - Hays River Education Kit
    - Park Explorer Booklets
    - Duck Mountain Management Plan
    - Seal River Report
    - Manitoba Conservation Workplace Health and Safety Manual
    - River Road Interpretive Signage

- Prepared display boards, posters and promotional and presentation material for example, Integrated Water Management Plan Display, Festival of Dragonflies Poster, Yurtin Poster, Walter Cook Caves Poster, Red River Designation Ceremony Handouts, New Cottage Lot Development, Protected Areas Initiative displays and promotional artwork required by Fisheries Branch for promotion material .

- Provided Geographic System Support to staff within Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. This involved data creation, topology structuring and map production, technical support, and analysis and data management.

- Assisted in the production of all summer, winter and seasonal-use maps for the new Parks Reservation System.

- Designed and produced signage and permits for Parks campgrounds.

- Designed various logos and other miscellaneous promotional material e.g. Park Explorer Logo, Park Interpretation Logo, Parks – Life is Great Outdoors Logo, Grand Beach Piping Plover sign, Park Interpreter Logo.

Table CS.1
12.2(a) Computer Graphics

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	366.3	8.00	424.0	(57.7)	
Other Expenditures	29.5		32.2	(2.7)	
Total 12.2(a)	395.8	8.00	456.2	(60.4)	

Survey Services

The Branch administers and enforces *The Surveys Act* (Part II) and *The Survey of Mining Claims Regulation*, approves Plans of Survey for disposition of land under *The Crown Lands Act, The Gas Pipe Line Act* and The Mineral Disposition and Mineral Lease Regulation *(The Mines and Minerals Act)*. The Branch represents Manitoba on matters related to provincial boundaries, provides survey services to other departments, and maintains the Manitoba Spatial Reference Network and Land Survey System. Public benefits include a secure process for conveyance and reservation of Crown land and rights therein, an expeditious survey service for acquisition and disposition of land, a survey system for determining property boundaries, and a geodetic survey network for spatial referencing of land-related information.

Land Survey System Program

The program restores survey monuments of the Provincial Land Survey system, an infrastructure for land ownership, to ensure a strong cadastral (property parcel) framework for land conveyance and economic activities. It restores survey monuments and maintains survey documents concerning provincial boundaries. The program provides instructions to Manitoba Land Surveyors on the survey of Crown lands, examines their survey returns, approves their plans of survey, and operates a Survey Information Centre. This centre maintains cadastral and geodetic survey information dating back to 1870 and provides such information to industry, government departments and agencies, and the general public.

The following key activities were carried out in 2006/07.

- The Branch restored 87 monuments in the township and parish systems of survey, issued 6 sets of survey instructions, examined 25 plans of survey, tentatively approved 24 plans of survey, approved 27 plans of survey, and responded to 160 information requests. Survey Services provided at no charge 250 marker posts to private land surveyors for the identification and protection of survey monuments of the township system.

Manitoba Spatial Reference Network Program

The program maintains a network of survey monuments whose positions (latitude, longitude and elevation) have been determined. Disciplines such as civil and geotechnical engineering, resource management, and legal surveying use this network to determine horizontal position and vertical elevation

of natural and man-made features and related information. This is essential to ensure compatibility of all surveying, mapping, navigation, and other spatial information and to permit seamless and economic exchange and merge of such information. The Manitoba Spatial Reference Network, which includes 230 primary and approximately 10,000 secondary control-survey stations, is integral to Canadian Spatial Reference System (CSRS), contributing to a reliable national infrastructure for referencing spatial information.

The following key activities were carried out in 2006/07.

- The branch continued participation on the Canadian Geodetic Reference System Committee (CGRSC) of the Canadian Council on Geomatics. CGRSC is a federal-provincial working committee that is mandated to plan and coordinate the maintenance and improvement of the geodetic spatial reference system in Canada. The committee, amongst other activities, continued work on two major initiatives; i.e., the Canada-wide Differential GPS Service and Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System.

  The Canada-wide Differential GPS Service is a satellite-based, real-time differential GPS service designed to provide reliable GPS positional corrections. The system provides a free nation-wide service that will benefit all GPS users by improving the standardization of spatial data collection and the positional accuracy of spatial information. For users with a CDGPS receiver, it provides sub-metre to two metre positional accuracy throughout the Canadian landmass. It is suitable for natural resource management, environmental monitoring, agriculture, marine, mineral exploration, facilities management, precision farming, resource management, GIS and mapping, and navigation applications. For more information, visit the CDGPS web-site at http://www.cdgps.com.

  Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System is a long-term initiative that will establish a new geoid-based datum to eventually replace the Mean Sea Level datum for vertical referencing. The new datum, scheduled for implementation by 2010, will offer numerous advantages over the current reference datum. It will be compatible with international standards, enable cost-savings through the use of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technologies such as the GPS, be accessible at any point in Canada, and will not be hindered by the deterioration of current benchmarks. In 2006/07 CGRSC received a consultant study on the height modernization initiative, which indicated overall support by users for the change and emphasized a need for a thorough implementation plan for success. The study (a) consulted with stakeholders in federal, provincial and municipal governments, academia, and industry, (b) raised awareness of the proposed change, (c) determined user requirements for assistance in making the transition, (d) identified the financial impacts, (e) identified the legal implications, (f) identified risks and impediments and made recommendations, and (g) prepared a plan for the implementation of the new system. For more information, visit the Canadian Spatial Reference System website at http://www.geod.nrcan.gc.ca/hm/docs_e.php.

- Staff continued a project to re-observe and modestly expand the primary component of the Manitoba Spatial Reference Network as part of the on-going maintenance of this infrastructure.

- Staff gave a presentation to (a) the Manitoba GIS Users Group on Manitoba Spatial Referencing Systems and (b) Red River College Geomatics Students on Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System. Staff initiated plans for comprehensive presentations in 2007/2008 on Modernization of the Canadian Height System to the broad user community.

Survey Services Program

The program provides legal and control surveys and cadastral (property parcel) mapping services under cost recovery to provincial government departments and agencies for the acquisition and disposition of

land, construction and maintenance of public works, and spatial referencing of land-related features and information. Products and services include:

- Legal surveys of public roads, water control works and utility easements
- Legal surveys of land parcels and subdivisions (including the cottaging initiative)
- Retracement and restoration surveys of prior legal survey
- Topographic surveys and terrain elevation models
- Control surveys for topographic mapping and civil engineering projects
- Control surveys for property parcel mapping (also known as cadastral integration surveys)
- Cadastral (property parcel) mapping
- Property parcel dimensions, acreages and coordinates
- Administrative boundary plans
- Title plots and legal descriptions
- Structure location surveys and certificates
- Land transaction/conveyance documents

Major clients include the Lands Branch and Parks and Natural Areas Branch of Conservation, Infrastructure and Transportation (Construction and Maintenance Branch and Land Management Agency), Water Stewardship (Water Control Infrastructure Branch), Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (Agreements Management Branch and Local Government Development Division), Science, Technology, Energy and Mines (Mines Branch and Petroleum Branch), and Intergovernmental Affairs (Community Planning Services Branch).

Survey Services achieved its 2006/07 cost-recovery and revenue objectives. Surveyors and survey technologists worked on 120 land survey, 17 control survey and 220 legal description projects.

The following key activities were carried out in 2006/07.

- Cottage subdivision surveys at various locations.
- Retracement, public road, water control work and drainage surveys at numerous locations.
- Administrative boundary plans for Protected Areas, Wildlife Management Areas and Park Areas.
- Parcel surveys for First Nations at many sites.

Table CS.2
12.2(b) Survey Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,278.1	26.00	1,437.8	(159.7)	1.
Other Expenditures	420.1		454.8	(34.7)	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(1,591.6)		(1,570.7)	(20.9)	
Total 12.2(b)	**106.6**	**26.00**	**321.9**	**(215.3)**	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to higher than anticipated vacant positions.

Distribution Centre

The Centre serves the public and government agencies with mapping and aerial photo products. Mapping products are sold across Canada. The market for these products is primarily the public and outdoor recreational users throughout North America. Product lines are continually being improved and expanded to meet the needs of Map Sales clientele.

The following key activities were carried out in 2006/07.

- A new Canadian Map Catalogue was designed and printed this year to promote the sale of mapping products for across Canada. The new catalogue encompasses all mapping products provided by Product Distribution. This new marketing tool should increase sales as it provides an excellent tool in which to up-sell to clients.

- Lake depth maps for lakes in Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta are continually being updated to include the Universal Transverse Mercator grids and coordinates. This information is required for our many clients who are now using hand held Global Positioning System units.

- 27,022 maps were sold directly or through the 150 dealers in Manitoba, Ontario and the north central United States. Map product sales were down this year throughout Canada, however Map Sales maintained it's ranking of third largest distributor of Topographic maps in Canada.

- Air photo products are produced and sold to the general public and government agencies. The Air Photo Library houses the only historic picture of Manitoba's landscape dating back to the 1920's. These photos are purchased by resource planners, environmental agencies, land developers, mining companies, etc. The traditional darkroom facilities were dismantled and replace with new scanners and printers. All photo production is now done through the scanning and printing of aerial photographs. Standard 10" x 10" and enlargements up to 40" x 40" are still available to clients. The new technology is providing high quality products for our clients. The Air Photo Library houses approximately 1,000,000 photos depicting Manitoba's historic landscape. The negatives of these aerial photos are aging and deteriorating more every year. In order to save this irreplaceable history of our province these negatives must be scanned and stored for future generations.

- 7,418 aerial photo products were sold to customers in 2006/07. This number is substantially higher due to a large photo order placed by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

Sale of mapping products and the e-commerce site is promoted by advertising in Yellow Pages, *Anglers' Guide*, Travel Manitoba publications, Fishing magazines, and direct marketing to the public through consumer shows and dealer sales calls.

Table CS.3
12.2(c) Distribution Centre

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	350.4	7.00	315.8	34.6	
Other Expenditures	348.0		338.0	10.0	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(65.9)		(50.0)	(15.9)	
Total 12.2(c)	**632.5**	**7.00**	**603.8**	**28.7**	

Regional Operations

2006/07 Annual Report *Objectives and* Key Results Achieved

Regional field staff are given the necessary knowledge, tools and resources and are trained and certified in necessary skill sets which will result in safe, effective and professional delivery of department programs.

- Firearms and Defensive Tactics qualification and recertification for 125 Natural Resource Officers, 52 Assistant Resource Officers and 32 returning Park Patrol Officers was completed regionally by Basic firearms Instructors and defensive Tactics instructors.

- Central Training in fall 2006 was developed, where two 1-day seminars were given to 140 full-time and seasonal Resource Officers for:

    - Case File Management
    - Conducting fishery inspections – restaurants, special dealers & fishermen
    - Taxidermist Inspections

- Orientation and training of 34 new Park Patrol Officers in safety, security & customer service within a 5 day program that covers legal authorities & issues, delivered in partnership with the University College of the North, with Operations conducting the Defensive Tactics training.

- To meet the requirements of moving up from the Park Patrol Officer level, 25 candidates were put through a firearms proficiency test and the Police Officer Physical Ability Test.

- Advanced firearm training, along with baton and weapon retention training, was held for 15 Assistant Resource Officers candidates.

- Recertification in defensive control tactics was required for 12 instructors.

- Back Country Canoe Safety Course to prepare 6 students designated to do river patrol on white-water rivers.

- Seven (7) new Natural Resource Officers (NRO) recruits were given training and certified in the use and carry of issued firearms.

- Soft body armour was supplied to Park Patrol Officers assigned to Birds Hill and Grand Beach.

- Two Natural Resource Officers were trained to the FI-310 level – Wildfire Investigation Case Development, which is aimed at complex or multiple wildfire investigations.

Specialized enforcement needs such as detailed investigations, covert operations, forensic lab services and canine detection are developed sufficiently to meet the needs of the department's field officers in addressing violations of resource and environmental law.

- Regional Investigators assisted various districts with complex investigations primarily related to illegal harvest and use of fish and wildlife. The special investigation unit also assisted regions with investigations into illegal outfitting activities, killing of endangered species and big game license fraud. The unit assisted regions with the preparation, execution and review of various search warrants.

- Through successful covert operations, the unit detected and prosecuted illegal activities involving commercial activity related to fish sales in the Winnipeg area. The unit successfully concluded a 12-month undercover operation involving illegal fish sales, a short term undercover investigation involving the sale of wild meat, and the illegal trade in bear parts.

- Public education programs were conducted in schools and at public meetings throughout the Province contacting approximately nine hundred people.

- There were 186 human caused wildfires investigated resulting in seven prosecutions, seven warnings and provided support for sixty-four fire suppression cost recovery charge-backs. The relatively high percentage of intentionally lit fires accounts for 13% of the total number of wildfires and 40% of all human caused fires, which continues to be a large concern.

The public has access to well-advertised 24-hour toll-free numbers to report forest fires, resource-law violations and environmental accidents.

- The 24-hour toll free telephone service (1-800-782-0076), aimed at reducing the illegal harvest of fish and wildlife received 364 calls resulted in 28 prosecutions and 15 warnings. In addition, the line received 129 calls reporting forest fires.

Recruitment and staffing of Resource Officers and Environment Officers are conducted in such a way as to maintain high professional standards and meet the needs of the Department and the expectation of the public.

- Nine Natural Resource Officers and two Environmental Officers were transferred to new locations to meet operational needs to facilitate career development.

- Thirty-four new Park Patrol Officers were hired to provide safety and security services in provincial parks for the summer months.

- Thirteen former Park Patrol Officers were promoted to seasonal Assistant Resource Officers.

Field staff managers and executive have access to accurate and timely inspection and compliance data to enable decision-making and informed analysis of the effectiveness of legislation and program delivery.

- See tables RO.1 to RO.7.

Program branches are kept informed of operational issues and supplied with the necessary feedback and expertise to continually improve programs to meet the needs of the public and the Department's clients.

- Worked with Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch on detailed amendment to several regulations under *The Wildlife Act.*
- Worked with Forestry Branch on legislative amendments and provided a detailed policy proposal to acknowledge new case law governing the harvest of wood by First Nations persons.
- Provided several pieces of analysis to Parks and Natural Areas Branch concerning the application of parks legislation.

Sufficient liaison is maintained with other government departments, federal/provincial agencies and non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) to maintain up-to-date and continually improving service delivery models.

- Extensive planning sessions held with Manitoba Health to facilitate transfer of the Public Health Inspection program from Conservation to Health in 2007.
- Worked with Manitoba Justice and a private course provider to design accredited law enforcement training for Park Patrol Officers.
- Met with Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives and provided operational and enforcement-related input to regulation under *Livestock Industry Diversification Act.*
- Provided extensive input to the Fisheries Branch of Manitoba Water Stewardship towards the development of proposed fish marketing regulations.
- Met with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and provided enforcement input to proposed new federal *Fisheries Act (Canada).*
- Met with senior RCMP and Justice officials to develop workable policing solutions for Manitoba's provincial parks.

Hunter-killed livestock claims are evaluated and processed promptly and livestock producers are fairly compensated for animals accidentally killed by hunters.

- See Table RO.11

The regions and department executive are kept updated on emerging changes and issues. Strategies are prepared to handle problems and introduce new initiatives.

- An extensive policy review and re-write was completed for issues related to certification, training and use of department firearms.
- Participated in development and review of operational and policy options related to various court decisions regarding Métis harvesting.
- Worked with Labour Relations and Human Resources to operational implementation of new initiatives related to employee travel time and qualification pay for special certifications.

Enforcement

Tables RO.1 through RO.7 summarize enforcement actions undertaken by the department's Environment Officers, Natural Resource Officers, and seasonal Resource Officers.

Table RO.1
Livestock Regulation Enforcement 1998/99 to 2006/07

Fiscal Year	Prosecutions	Warnings	Orders	Fines ($)
1998-99	12	32	7	11,862
1999-00	9	35	10	8,496
2000-01	16	49	22	8,067
2001-02	16	53	34	11,903
2002/03	15	59	21	20,280
2003/04	19	54	57	23,076
2004/05	16	63	45	36,960
2005/06	12	53	35	8,935
2006/07	2	41	29	1,114

Table RO.2
Environmental Programs Enforcement

Legislation	Prosecutions	Warnings	Orders and Suspensions	Fines($)
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act - Dangerous Goods Handling & Transportation Regulation - Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Product Regulation	48	8	7	28,426
Legislation	**Prosecutions**	**Warnings**	**Orders and Suspensions**	**Fines($)**
The Environment Act - Litter Regulation - Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation - Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation - Waste Disposal Grounds Regulation	26	95	65	11,400
The Public Health Act - Dwellings and Buildings Regulation - Food and Food Handling Establishments Regulation - Swimming Pools and Other Water Recreational Facilities Regulation	24	60	17	8,183

Legislation	Prosecutions	Warnings	Orders and Suspensions	Fines($)
The Non-Smokers Health Protection Act - Municipal By-laws		2 3		
Total	98	168	89	$48,009

Table RO.3
Common Violations under *The Provincial Parks Act*

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences	Evictions
No Park Vehicle Pass	1,169	4	1,173	0
Cause Disturbance	107	102	209	1,175
Parking Violations	129	3	132	0
Disobey Officer/Sign/Permit	40	35	75	10
Camp w/o Permit/Prohibited	9	49	58	4
Unlawful Vehicle Operation	16	33	49	0
Possess Fireworks	17	17	34	3
Have Liquor Where Prohibited	30	2	32	135
Fail to Control Pet / On Beach	7	24	31	0
Fire w/o Permit/Unattended Fire	13	6	19	0
Fail to Maintain Campsite	8	7	15	0
Damage Pollute Park Property	6	7	13	1
Other	8	6	14	0
Total	1,559	295	1,854	1,328

Table RO.4
Common Violations under *The Wildlife Act*

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Hunt/Trap/Guide W/O Licence / Licence Infractions	23	44	67
Hunt From or Have Loaded Firearm in Vehicle	54	6	60
Tagging / Transportation Infractions	42	15	57
Hunt Prohibited Area/Private Land W/O Permission	48	8	56
Hunt or Discharge Firearm From Road	38	0	38
Equipment Infractions	19	14	33
Night Hunting / Dangerous Hunting	18	3	21
Abandon/Waste Game	15	2	17
Bait Infractions	11	3	14
Possess Illegally Taken / Prohibited Wildlife	10	2	12
Hunt Out of Season	4	3	7
Hunt for Remuneration / Illegal Sale of Wildlife	1	2	3
Other	6	7	13
Total	289	109	398

Table RO.5
Common Violations under *The Fisheries Act (Canada)*, and *The Fisheries Act* (Manitoba)

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Equipment Infractions	262	22	284
Licence Infractions	127	116	243
Exceed Limits	80	20	100
Transportation Infractions	25	23	48
Illegal Sale / Possession of Fish	21	10	31
Wastage of Fish	19	2	21
Fish During Closed Time / Closed Area	10	5	15
Live Bait Infractions	2	1	3
Other	1	4	5
Total	547	203	750

Table RO.6
Comparison of Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Migratory Birds Prosecutions 1997/98 to 2006/07

Fiscal Year	Wildlife	Fisheries	Parks	Migratory Birds
1997-98	421	846	171	9
1998-99	278	965	248	6
1999-00	337	833	219	36
2000-01	371	610	203	8
2001-02	379	674	227	8
2002/03	213	537	195	9
2003/04	321	654	1,523*	15
2004/05	287	660	1,219*	9
2005/06	376	707	1,634*	15
2006/07	289	547	1,559*	18

*Includes Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not reported before 2003/04.

Table RO.7
Record of Violations Occurring 2006/07

Acts	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Crown Lands	27	28	55
Forest	2	7	9
Fisheries (Canada)	388	74	462
Fisheries (Manitoba)	159	129	288
Highway Traffic	45	15	60
Liquor Control	374	28	402
Migratory Birds	18	15	33
Off Road Vehicle	24	19	43
Provincial Parks	1,559	295	1,854
Wild Animal & Plant Protection	12	0	12
Wildfires	40	38	78
Wildlife	289	109	398
Water Rights	1	10	11
Total	2,938	767	3,705

Total Fines: $488,392.00 for 2006/07

Hunter and Firearm Safety Training

Manitoba Wildlife Federation administers and delivers the Hunter and Firearm Safety Training Program. In 2006 there were about 250 active instructors who graduated 3032 students.

Since the program began in 1964, a total of 148,290 students have been trained (Table RO.8). Table RO.9 shows firearm incident statistics, by five-year average since 1964. Table RO.10 provides statistics on firearm incidents and fatalities over the last 10 years. (Examples of non-hunting incidents include incidents in the home, children playing with firearms, etc.)

Table RO.8

Hunter and Firearm Safety Program 1996-2006

Year	Students	Total to Date	Instructors Certified
1996	2,115	126,318	11
1997	2,101	128,419	8
1998	1,807	130,226	24
1999	2,068	132,294	15
2000	2,079	134,373	5
2001	1,976	136,349	4
2002	2,191	138,540	7
2003	2,059	140,599	14
2004	2,336	142,935	24
2005	2,611	145,546	14
2006	3,032	148,578	14

Table RO.9

Firearm Accidents, 1964-2003, 5-Year Averages

1964-68	64
1969-73	56
1974-78	54
1979-83	43
1984-88	26
1989-93	20
1994-98	9
1999-03	6

Table RO.10

Firearm Accidents 1997-2006

Year	Accidents			Fatalities		
	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total
1997	2	6	8	0	2	2
1998	4	2	6	1	0	1
1999	10	5	15	3	1	4
2000	3	0	3	0	0	0
2001	6	0	6	3	0	3
2002	2	0	2	1	0	1
2003	4	0	4	1	0	1
2004	5	1	6	1	0	1
2005	2	3	5	1	0	1
2006	3	0	3	0	0	0

Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation

The Program compensates livestock owners for animals deemed accidentally shot by licensed hunters during an open big game season. Claims are investigated by Natural Resource Officers and occasionally by the RCMP. This year, one claim qualified for compensation at $2,600. Program activity for the past ten years is illustrated in Table RO.11.

Table RO.11
Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation 1997/98 to 2006/07

Year Paid	Claims	Claims Paid	Total Paid	Average Paid
1997-98	2	2	$2,250	$1,125
1998-99	7	6	$9,533	$1,589
1999-00	9	6	$5,670	$945
2000-01	7	4	$4,120	$1,030
2001-02	6	5	$5,034	$1,007
2002/03	9	5	$5,716	$1,143
2003/04	3	3	$2,358	$786
2004/05	4	1	$600	$600
2005/06	3	2	$1,100	$550
2006/07	2	1	$2,600	$2,600

Table RO.12
Problem Wildlife Occurrences 2006/07

Species	Region							
	NE	NW	E	I	W	RR	Total	% of Total
Beaver	1	5	41	76	30	64	217	5%
Black Bear	130	110	349	284	170	107	1150	29%
Polar Bear	264	0	0	0	0	0	264	7%
Big Game	0	1	7	76	149	52	285	7%
Wolf	23	15	29	62	43	14	186	5%
Migratory Birds	0	18	11	81	88	30	228	6%
Other*	8	22	73	321	452	765	1641	41%
Total	**426**	**171**	**510**	**900**	**932**	**1032**	**3971**	**100%**

***Other includes coyote, fox, racoon, skunk, etc.**

Special Investigations Unit

- Regional investigators assisted various districts with complex investigations primarily related to illegal harvest and use of fish and wildlife. The unit also assisted regions with investigations into illegal outfitting activities, killing of endangered species and big game license fraud. The unit assisted regions with the preparation, execution and review of various search warrants.

- Through successful covert operations, the unit detected and prosecuted illegal activities involving commercial activity related to fish sales in the Winnipeg area. The unit successfully concluded a 12-month undercover operation involving illegal fish sales, a short term undercover investigation involving the sale of wild meat, and the illegal trade in bear parts.

Turn-in-Poachers and Report Forest Fires Line (T.I.P.)

- The toll free telephone service (1-800-782-0076) which is aimed at reducing the illegal harvest of fish and wildlife received 364 calls resulting in 28 prosecutions and 15 warnings. In addition, the toll free line received 129 calls reporting forest fires.

- Advertising of the 24-hour toll-free number to report forest fires and resource-law violations was expanded by supplying free holders for fish and wildlife licenses through Department license vendors. These free license holders provide the public immediate access to the toll-free 24-hour telephone number and reminders of the type of information that will assist officers in following up on public calls.

Table RO.13
T.I.P. Calls by Region 2006/07

	Number of Calls					Number of Prosecutions			
Region	**Fish**	**Wildlife**	**Other**	**Fire**	**Total**	**Fish**	**Wildlife**	**Other**	**Total**
Red River	11	84	0	1	96	3	4	0	7
Interlake	18	75	4	10	107	0	0	1	1
Western	9	81	1	11	102	0	4	0	4
Eastern	9	57	8	55	129	11	4	1	16
Northwest	5	1	1	22	29	0	0	0	0
Northeast	0	0	0	30	30	0	0	0	0
Total	52	298	14	129	493	14	12	2	28

Table RO.14
T.I.P. Calls by Year 1998/99 to 2006/07 (excluding Fire)

	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07
Calls Received	695	758	568	569	485	406	358	330	364
For Information	24	28	23	18	31	19	21	10	11
Calls Actioned	298	321	204	230	218	235	226	217	261
Prosecutions	74	70	59	40	30	37	21	37	28
Warnings	12	23	37	12	8	2	5	8	15

Wildfire Investigation

- There were 186 human caused wildfires investigated resulting in seven prosecutions, seven warnings and provided support for sixty-four fire suppression cost recovery charge backs. The relatively high percentage of intentionally lit fires accounts for 13% of the total number of wildfires and 40 % of all human caused fires, which continues to be a large concern.

- Two Natural Resource Officers were trained to the FI-310 level – Wildfire Investigation Case Development, which is aimed at complex or multiple wildfire investigations.

Canine Program

- The Manitoba Conservation Canine Team was used extensively throughout the year and across the province. Jake, a Belgian Malinois, worked on a variety of details including twenty-three roadside check stations, seven decoy operations, searching for evidence involving investigations of illegal fishing and hunting and assisted other agencies with such things as searching for lost persons and tracking of individuals who fled from officers. The team was also involved with wildfire investigations, provided instruction in defensive tactics, firearms and Use of Force.

- Public education programs were conducted in schools and at public meetings throughout the Province contacting approximately nine hundred people.

Table RO.15
12.3(a) Regional Support Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,917.4	33.50	1,822.4	95.0	
Other Expenditures	922.7		1,093.9	(171.2)	1.
Problem Wildlife Control	475.9		490.6	(14.7)	
Total 12.3(a)	**3,316.0**	**33.50**	**3,406.9**	**(90.9)**	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to lower employee relocation costs.

Northwest Region

The Northwest Region encompasses a diverse landscape that includes parts of the Manitoba Lowlands and Canadian Shield natural regions. The Region is dominated by boreal forest, lakes and rivers, largely in a natural state.

Mineral extraction, processing and exploration, commercial timber harvesting and processing (lumber and pulp and paper), agriculture (Manitoba's most northerly farming community), resource-based tourism (lodges and outfitting) and commercial fishing and trapping are the main industries providing economic and employment benefits in the Region. The harvesting of wild rice and of non-timber forest products also provide for some local employment. Domestic and recreational use of the Region's wildlife, fish and forest resources by the resident of the Region is also significant.

Due to the values-at-risk associated with towns and communities and with timber values, the Region's fire management and suppression program is the most significant and highest priority program delivered in the Northwest Region in terms of both employment and expenditures. It normally runs from May through September. At the same time the Region delivers services, programs and security in the Clearwater Lake, Bakers Narrows, Grass River and Wekusko Provincial Parks. The management and allocation of Crown land and resources to different, often competing, users and compliance monitoring and enforcement of Crown land, resource and environmental legislation are year round activities in the Region. Participation on co-management boards and problem wildlife are also important program activities in the Region.

The Northwest Region has a Regional Office located at The Pas and District Offices located at Cranberry Portage, Flin Flon, Snow Lake, Grand Rapids and The Pas.

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

- The Region experienced an average fire season. The first human caused fire occurred on April 26 and the first lightning fire started May 29. There were a total of 75 fires, of which 64 were lightning caused and 11 human caused. Of this, 29 fires resulted from a lightning storm on June 29.

15% of anglers checked and 30% of hunters checked.

- Natural Resource Officers checked 1,853 anglers and 760 hunters for compliance. There were 7 roadside check stations conducted in the Region.

New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.

- Natural Resource Officers checked 262 commercial fishers and 457 commercial fisher's nets for compliance.

Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.

- Fourteen (14) new electrical sites were opened at Bakers Narrows Provincial Park.
- Playground improvements were completed at Wekusko Falls Provincial Park.
- A new campground office was constructed at Reed Lake in Grass River Provincial Park.
- Improvements to the boat launch and docking facility were made in Clearwater Lake Provincial Park.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- Regional and District staff participated as provincial representatives on the Cedar Lake and Cormorant Resource Management Boards, and worked with the Missinipi Cree Nation and Mosakahiken Cree Nation on specific resource-related issues.
- Opaskwayak Cree Nation and Manitoba Conservation entered into a Joint Management of Resources Agreement at a signing ceremony in February 2007. The Agreement is a formal recognition of OCN's traditional territory and commitment to cooperatively manage the area's renewable resources. Funding of $225.0 over 3 years has been provided to support Board operational costs and resource management projects.

Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.

- Woodland caribou research and monitoring continued in response to the national requirement for Recovery plans. A Northwest Regional Woodland Caribou Research and Management stakeholder committee coordinated by Manitoba Conservation has generated partnership funding assist with this work. Stakeholder support for this initiative includes First Nations, Manitoba Hydro, forestry and mining sectors, environmental organizations, several universities and provincial and federal government departments.
- A tripartite wetland research initiative has commenced in the lower Saskatchewan Delta south east of The Pas to study effects of water regulation on plant and animal communities in controlled marshland impoundments. The field research involving 3 graduate studies commences in the spring of 2007 and will span 4 years. Financial and in kind contributions to the work amounting to $500.0 have been provided by Manitoba Hydro, Ducks Unlimited and Manitoba Conservation.

Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.

- The Region reviewed and provided comments on Crown Land applications, Casual Quarry Permit applications and Licensing Advisory Committee applications. 299 Work Permits were issued through District Offices and Regional Office for various activities conducted on Crown lands.

Supports the development of The Provincial Cottaging Initiative

- Sites in the First Cranberry Lake, Wekusko Lake, Twin Lakes and Athapapuskow - Boathouse Bay, North Arm and East Arm subdivisions were again offered in the Provincial Cottage Lots Draw in November 2006.

- Contracts were awarded for design and layout of the access roads to the Twin Lakes and First Cranberry subdivisions, and the work completed in summer/fall 2006. A contract was tendered and awarded for the construction of these roads in spring/summer 2007.

Other Notable Highlights

- Environment Officers conducted inspections on 14 petroleum storage facilities 13 waste disposal grounds, sewage treatment plants and sewage lagoons, and responded to 3 emergency response situations.

- Non-resident outfitting continues to be an important activity in the Northwest Region with 34 lodge operators/outfitters being allocated 335 non-resident black bear licenses.

- Regional staff coordinated the planting of 578,000 trees, regeneration surveys on 80 hectares and plantation surveys on 60 hectares.

Table RO.16
12.3(b) Northwest Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,046.4	40.15	2,114.0	(67.6)	
Other Expenditures	2,836.1		835.6	2,000.5	1.
Total 12.3(b)	**4,882.5**	**40.15**	**2,949.6**	**1,932.9**	

1. Increase in Other Expenditures is due to Grand Rapids/Forebay survey costs. The costs relate to Settlement Agreements with four communities that have been impacted through the Grand Rapid hydro-electric project (1960s).

Northeast Region

The Northeast Region encompasses 60% of the land area of Manitoba and is comprised primarily of vast uninterrupted tracts of boreal forest transitioning to taiga in the far north. The majority of the land base remains in its natural state, unaltered and undeveloped, and is largely inaccessible due to an extremely limited road network.

On a capita per area basis the Northeast Region is the most sparsely populated area. Mineral extraction, processing and exploration, hydro-electric generation and transmission, resource-based tourism (lodges and outfitting), timber harvesting and commercial fishing and trapping are the main industries generating economic and employment benefits for the Region and Province. Domestic and recreational use of the Region's wildlife, fish and forest resources by the residents of the Region is also significant.

Due to the values-at-risk associated with towns and communities and with timber values, the Region's fire management and suppression program is the most significant and highest priority program delivered in the Northeast Region in terms of both employment and expenditures. It normally runs from May through September. At the same time the Region delivers services, programs and security at Paint Lake Provincial Park and several other provincial parks. The management and allocation of Crown land and resources to different, often competing, users and compliance monitoring and enforcement of Crown land, resource and environmental legislation are year round activities in the Region. Participation on co-management boards and problem wildlife, including the high profile Polar Bear Alert Program at Churchill, are also important program activities in the Region.

The Northeast Region has a Regional Office located at Thompson, District Offices located at Churchill, Gillam, Thompson, Wabowden, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Norway House, Island Lake, and Gods Narrows, and sub-District Offices located at Split Lake, Nelson House, Pukatawagan, South Indian Lake, Cross Lake, and Oxford House.

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

The Northeast Region experienced a relatively quiet season with an average number of fires. There were 285 fires in total with 183 the result of lightning, and 102 due to human activity. There were no losses of property or threats to communities. Successful preparedness planning and initial attack kept losses of merchantable timber the Primary Protection Zone to a negligible level.

15% of anglers checked and 30% of hunters checked.

- Natural Resource Officers checked 2064 anglers and 955 hunters for compliance.
- Natural Resource Officers checked 142 commercial fishermen for compliance.

Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.

- Twenty (20) additional electrical sites were opened at Paint Lake Provincial Park, and renovations completed on campground shower building.
- Boat launch improvements and new docks were installed at Burge Lake and Zed Lake Provincial Parks.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- Regional and District staff participated as provincial representatives on the Nelson House, Split Lake, York Factory, Norway House and Fox Lake Resource Management Boards, the Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board and the Wapusk National Park Management Board.
- Regional staff worked with the Mathias Colomb First Nation and St. Theresa Point First Nation in assessing the potential economic and employment benefits associated with community-based forest management initiatives.

Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.

- The 2006 Polar Bear Alert Program was again successful, with 62 polar bears being handled. The number of recorded occurrences was 179, of which 45% occurred in the month of November.

Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.

- Regional staff assisted with surveys of the Wapisu Boreal Woodland Caribou herd and of the area where the Wuskwatim transmission line will be constructed.

- Two polar bear surveys were done along the Hudson Bay coastline to determine numbers and distribution. A total of 119 and 128 bears were counted in July and September respectively.

- The Region reviewed and provided comments on 40 Crown Land applications, 75 Crown Land assignments, 5 Crown Land Change-in-use applications, 85 Casual Quarry Permit applications, 33 Licence Advisory Committee applications, and 10 Treaty Land Entitlement Selections. 248 Timber Permits, 226 Work Permits and 127 Burning Permits were issued through District Offices and Regional Office.

Other Notable Highlights

- The 2006 Polar Bear Alert Program was again successful, with 62 polar bears being handled. The number of recorded occurrences was 179, of which 45% occurred in the month of November. The last polar bear was released from the Polar Bear Compound on November 30. There was additional work completed on the Polar Bear Compound, with the construction of 5 new air-conditioned holding cells and a separate holding area to house orphaned polar bear cubs. This year was the 2nd year that an ice out survey was completed along the Hudson Bay coastline for population number and distribution. A total of 119 polar bears were counted at the end of July, along the coast. A September coastal survey was completed as well with a total of 128 polar bears counted.

- Environment Officers conducted inspections on 72 petroleum storage facilities, 17 waste disposal grounds, 14 sewage treatment plants and 7 sewage lagoons.

- There was additional work completed on the Polar Bear Compound, with the construction of 5 new air-conditioned holding cells and a separate holding area to house orphaned polar bear cubs.

- The Thompson Fur Table was attended by 198 trappers, and a total of $349,871.00 worth of fur was sold. Trappers received very good prices for their fur from the fur buyers attending this annual event.

- Non-resident hunting continues to be an important activity in the Northeast Region with 54 lodge operators/outfitters being allocated 183 moose licenses, 631 black bear licenses and 440 caribou licenses.

- Regional staff coordinated the planting of 270,650 trees, site preparation on 78 hectares, free-to-grow surveys on 5 hectares, and brushing on 8 hectares.

- Regional staff coordinated community tree plants at Thompson, Churchill and Norway House. Youth from all three communities participated.

Table RO.17

12.3(c) Northeast Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,475.4	46.38	2,594.5	(119.1)	1.
Other Expenditures	1,053.7		1,060.0	(6.3)	
Total 12.3(c)	**3,529.1**	**46.38**	**3,654.5**	**(125.4)**	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to higher than anticipated vacant positions.

Interlake Region

The Interlake Region delivers programs and services in the following program areas: wildlife, fisheries, forestry, Crown lands, water management, provincial parks, environmental protection, public health and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of environment, natural resource and public health legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Gimli and District Offices in Ashern, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Gypsumville, Hodgson, Lundar, Riverton, Selkirk and Winnipeg Beach.

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

Environment / Public Health

- Processed nearly 500 registrations for onsite wastewater, investigated approximately 40 complaints
    - oversaw closure of 5 old waste disposal grounds, and opening of 1 new waste disposal ground and 2 waste transfer stations
    - oversaw construction of 2 new sewage lagoons, and 2 sewage treatment plants
    - Identified 5 contaminated sites under the liabilities program
    - Investigated a number livestock related complaints, inspected construction of new manure storage facilities
    - Inspect / permit seasonal swimming facilities
    - Inspected seasonal recreation camps
    - Inspected most summer seasonal food service establishments
    - Remained with assigned budget.
- Regional staff responded to 2338 district occurrence reports from the public related to parks operation and safety, problem wildlife and resources related complaints. In addition, staff provided representation on behalf of the department and professional advice to a large number of public, industry and interest groups on forestry, wildlife, Crown lands and other resource concerns and issues.

Compliance levels in excess of 95% for Public Related Complaints.

- Interlake regional staff undertook 1586 enforcement actions resulting in 533 charges, 201 warnings and 852 evictions from provincial parks. These actions were primarily in response to public complaints on regulatory resource issues as well as maintaining park safety and security for the public.

New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.

- An Interlake Regional Enforcement Strategy was developed and implemented to address enforcement issues and focus enforcement activities on the priorities including park safety and security, wildfire investigations and commercial use of fish and wildlife.

Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.

- Park rowdyism and public safety and security remain critical issues requiring the primary attention of the region's resources. Reallocation of additional staff from out of district and out of region is required to provide adequate enforcement staff to control situations and respond to public complaints. There were 206 public complaints about rowdyism at Grand Beach and Birds Hill Provincial Parks which are the highest use parks with the majority of rowdyism and public safety issues.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- A resource management symposium was organized at Peguis First Nation to increase liaison and interaction on resource management issues with the First Nations people, particularly school students.

Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.

- The number of problem wildlife complaints from the public decreased to 900 occurrence reports. This was mostly due to a significant decline in black bear complaints for the year. Nuisance small animal complaints especially raccoon, skunk, coyotes and others continue to increase and cause the highest number of complaints. Public education initiatives were undertaken in the Grand Beach District to prevent black bear/human interactions.

Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.

- An Annual Operating Plan for all proposed harvesting and silviculture work was submitted.

Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.

- Annual Operating Plan was reviewed and endorsed by the Interlake Regional Management Team December 2006.
- Supports the development of The Provincial Cottaging Initiative.
- There were approximately 100 lots of the 120 Crown land lots sold at the Little Deer cottage subdivision in the Interlake. The road construction for this subdivision is primarily complete with only minor works remaining before it is certified as built. Hydro service line right of way had to be established and a contract was developed to have the work done to allow for the installation of the hydro line. All lot holders had to be contracted and agree to the proposed work.

- The Mill Creek subdivision was surveyed and approximately 30 lots were purchased during the last two cottage draws. The right of way was harvested in order to salvage merchantable wood.
- Meetings with Fisher River First Nation were held on a partnership possibility for cottage development on lands owned by the First Nation and the Province.

Other Notable Highlights

Lands

- Staff reviewed and commented on approximately 15 applications for proposed shoreline erosion protection works through the Shoreline Erosion Technical Committee.
- Staff reviewed approximately 250 townships of crown land and developed new operational land use codes for all the Crown Land involved. The code review was in response to a proposed Orientated Strand Board plant in the southern Interlake.

Wildlife

- Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) continues to be a highly popular wildlife viewing area, with over 200,000 visitors touring the area on an annual basis. A number of infrastructure improvements were undertaken in 2006, including the construction of a new road to the north mound viewing site, installation of a new WMA entrance sign and the development of an interpretive kiosk and signage.
- The Narcisse Snake Dens is one of the world's most significant snake viewing areas, with approximately 50,000 visitors and 2,000 school children touring the site in 2006. The walking trail system was upgraded with placement of approximately 1 kilometer of crushed limestone base. Project funding support, in the amount of $30,000, was provided by the Watchable Wildlife Program.

Parks

- In 2006, the Red River was nominated by the Canadian Heritage Review Committee as a candidate for a Canadian Heritage River in 2007.
- In 2006, the new owners and managers of the Hecla Oasis Resort in Hecla Provincial Park began the demolition of much of the resort and began construction of Phase 1 of the planned $30 million dollar spa, hotel and conference centre.

Table RO.18
12.3(d) Interlake Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,467.3	61.64	3,302.7	164.6	
Other Expenditures	1,235.5		1,235.5	0.0	
Total 12.3(d)	**4,702.8**	**61.64**	**4,538.2**	**164.6**	

Eastern Region

The Eastern Region is comprised of rural towns, First Nation communities, Canadian Shield boreal forest and agricultural lands. The region contains extensive tracts of natural undisturbed areas. The majority of the land base has not been developed for human occupation. Major programs associated with the activities described above that are administered by the region include Public Health, *The Environment Act*, Contaminated Sites, Petroleum Storage, Onsite Wastewater, Solid Waste Management, Parks Operations and Maintenance, Forest Planning and Management, Wildlife Research and Season Regulations and Wild Fire Protection and Suppression.

The Eastern Regional programs and services are provided by multi-disciplined full time and seasonal staff working from the Regional Office in Lac du Bonnet and District Offices at Beausejour, Falcon Lake, Hadashville, Lac du Bonnet, Lake Winnipeg East, Pine Falls, Rennie, Seven Sisters, Sprague and West Hawk Lake and Sub-District Offices at Berens River, Little Grand Rapids and Bisset.

2006/07 Annual Report Key Results Achieved

Environment/Public Health

- Within the Public Health Inspection Program, priority was placed on inspection of recreational camps, swimming pool facilities, food handling establishments, care facilities and investigation of public complaints.
- Training certification for over 80 food handlers.
- 240 onsite waste water management sites registered of which 80% were hold tank installations.
- Undertook environmental monitoring program to assess impacts from West Hawk Lake water treatment lagoon water quality.

Compliance levels in excess of 95% for Public Related Complaints.

- Regional staff responded to 1,999 district occurrence reports from the public related to parks operation and safety, problem wildlife and resources related complaints.

Camping Initiative Improvement Program in Provincial Parks.

- Thirty one additional sites at Nutimik Lake Campground were provided with electrical and water facilities.
- Work started on reorganizing and upgrading services at West Hawk Lake Campground and Falcon Lakeshore Campground under the same program.
- Development work continued on the Trans Canada Trail in both North and South Whiteshell.
- Frontier School Division completed the construction of the new school at Falcon Lake.

New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.

- Effective control of park rowydism led to reduced level of related public complaints.
- Increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- The Eastern Region continued to work with First Nations on the Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee, the Committee for Moose Management, the Poplar River Protected Area. The region/districts continue to work towards a formal consultation process with First Nations in regards to resource management issues.

Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.

- Supports the development of the Provincial Cottaging Initiative.
- Sites were selected and new lots were made available in the fall 2006 draw at Driftwood and Blueberry Sub-divisions in the Manigotagan area on Lake Winnipeg on the Wanipigow Subdivision on Wanipigow Lake. Existing infill lots at Grausdin Point, Totem Road, Traverse Estates, Maple Creek and Lee River were also advertised on the draw. Construction of roads and installation of services such as telephone and power at these sites is continuing.

Table RO.19
12.3(e) Eastern Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,541.7	64.72	3,370.3	171.4	1.
Other Expenditures	913.2		1,033.8	(120.6)	2.
Total 12.3(e)	**4,454.9**	**64.72**	**4,404.1**	**50.8**	

1. Increase in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to retirement severance and vacation pay, River Stewards Program salaries and employee benefits, and general salary increases.
2. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to River Stewards Program salaries and employee benefits, which were budgeted as operating costs.

Western Region

The Western Region is an extremely diverse area which encompasses a range of land based development and activities from urban centres to intensive agricultural and industrial development to remote undeveloped natural habitat. The region reaches from the American border on the south to the northern end of Lake Winnipegosis and is geographically divided in half by the Riding Mountain National Park. It was formerly two regions (South West region and Western Region) and while functioning as one region much of the administration and management is completed by two distinct sub-regions.

The region contains 58% of the Rural Municipalities in the province and is the second most populated area of the province next to the Red River region. Agricultural and use predominates the region which the northern portion supports a significant portion of the provinces forestry industry. As a result of this agricultural land use there are significant problem wildlife issues (beaver, coyote, elk depredation). The region contains 5 well known natural topographic features in the form of the Turtle, Riding Duck and Porcupine Mountains and Lake Winnipegosis. Lake of the Prairies is also one of the premier walleye fisheries in the province. Recreational and Commercial use of natural resources within the region are a major economic stimulus in the region. There are 21 provincial parks in the region. The region contains the majority of outfitters in the province. There are major industrial and agricultural processing industries

in the region including Maple Leaf Foods, Louisiana Pacific, Canexus (formerly Nexus), Koch (formerly Simplot), Ayherst Organics, Hazco. All of the above use and activities require extensive administration and monitoring under the Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry, Parks, Crown Lands, Public Health and Environment Acts and regulations and associated programs.

2006/07 Annual Report Key Results Achieved

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

- District Work Plans were developed for each district to ensure work is focused on priority activities
- Delivered Regional Programs within budget allocations
- To ensure responsive and effective wildlife program delivery in the Western Region, a regional wildlife biologist was recruited for the Swan River area.
- Regional staff continued to assist in the field delivery of the bovine tuberculosis (TB) implementation plan developed by the TB Task group. A wildlife bovine TB biologist was hired in Dauphin. This program included a barrier fencing program (4 cattle feeding yard fences were installed using aboriginal contractors); expanded hunting seasons and increased sampling of elk and white-tailed deer in the Riding Mountain TB eradication zone.
- Emphasis on complaint oriented enforcement efforts vs. hunter/resource user checks.
  - Decoys and night patrols based on intelligence or public complaints.
  - Commercial fishing patrols in areas and during times based on complaints.
  - Emphasis on timber tracking to reconcile allocated timber

15% of anglers checked and 30% of hunters checked.

- Enforcement efforts were concentrated in areas of concern.

New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.

- Conducted aerial and ground surveillance for illegal baiting and feeding of wildlife in Game Hunting Area 23/23A around Riding Mountain National Park.
- Staff attended a one day seminar aimed at commercial trade of fish and wildlife.
- Staff conducted taxidermy inspections using the new information.
- Staff have increased attention in assessing unlawful movement of fish.

Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within provincial parks.

- No significant incidents or rowdyism occurred in Spruce Woods Provincial Park, Turtle Mountain Provincial Park or Rivers.
- Regional Resource Officers assisted in park security delivery at Central and Eastern regional parks during the summer.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- Participation in First Nations consultation process for the LP 20 year Forest Management Plan (FMP).
- Completed cone collection with residents from Northern Affairs Communities (Barrows and Mafeking).
- Encouraged planting contractors to involve First Nations communities in tree planter training.
- Regional wildlife staff attended numerous meetings with stakeholder groups including the West Region Elk Management Board, Riding Mountain Regional Liaison Committee, Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve Committee, Tuberculosis (TB) Task Group, TB Stakeholders Advisory Committee, Parkland Wildlife Group, Southwest Wildlife Group, the Shilo Environmental Advisory Committee and the West Region Tribal Council (WRTC) on wildlife management issues and actions.
- A co-management process continues to function effectively with WRTC for the management of the Dauphin Lake fishery.
- Regional participation in Park Districts review process.
- Continued interaction with aboriginal communities, sport fish groups, schools, RCMP, wildlife oriented groups.

Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.

- Efforts continue to educate user groups on the fringe of Riding Mountain National Park utilizing the Bear Safe program.
- The problem beaver program was continued.
- Three problem beaver workshops were conducted at Swan River, Rossburn and Boissevain for trappers, municipal, Infrastructure and Transportation, and Conservation staff to prevent flooding damage caused by beavers.
- The "Bears and Bees" project in the Ethelbert area continues. Six outfitters maintain 20 electric fences around chronic bee-yard depredation sites to assist Manitoba's largest honey producer. Nuisance bear harvest is significantly reduced and no fences were breached by bears.
- Coyote populations remained high with a significant number of complaints received. A problem predator control program was initiated in co-operation with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation and the Manitoba Trappers Association to assist cattle producers with depredation issues.
- Two problem predator workshops were conducted at Shoal Lake and Virden with instructions on trapping techniques and predator calling.
- A trapper education workshop was conducted in Rivers.

- Two cattle producers in the Swan River and Ethelbert area received materials for a hay protection barrier fence to prevent big game depredation to their stored hay.

- Regional staff worked cooperatively with Wildlife Branch and provided assistance to Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in addressing escaped elk and farm management issues relating to an elk farming facility adjacent to the Saskatchewan border near Swan River.

- An aerial survey was conducted in the Duck and Porcupine Mountains in 2007. Moose populations are near historic low numbers and further hunting season restrictions implemented.

- A woodland caribou survey was conducted in the Swan-Pelican Provincial Forest with Assiniboine Community College via Special Conservation Fund assistance. Few caribou were counted and the future of this small caribou herd is questionable.

- As part of the bovine TB program, an elk movement study was initiated in the Duck Mountains. Fifteen (15) elk were captured, fitted with GPS radio-collars and tracked monthly for their seasonal movements and habitat use.

- Endangered peregrine falcons returned to the McKenzie Seeds building in Brandon to nest for their tenth consecutive year. Besides Winnipeg, the Brandon pair is the only other known wild peregrines nesting in Manitoba.

- Assistance relative to wildlife and bio-diversity in general was provided to the Little Saskatchewan River, Turtle Mountain and Upper Assiniboine River Conservation Districts in developing management plans for watersheds.

Other Key Results Achieved

- Established a procedure to encourage utilization of timber on Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) pastures.

- Assisted in development of a riparian wildlife key for the Duck Mountain area to assist Louisiana-Pacific planners in sustainable forest and wildlife management.

- Realignment of timber tracking duties to improve monitoring and compliance related to timber harvest.

- 8,657 cull, defect and undersize samples measured at LP, SPL and Riehl Lumber mills as part of provincial scaling program.
- 798,000 spruce seedlings planted in the Mountain Forest Section.

- Site preparation of 106 hectares for planting.

- Aerial release 242 hectares of plantation for survival.

- Facilities at Whitewater Lake Wildlife Management Area were improved through funding from the Heritage Marsh and the watch able Wildlife programs. The area continues to attract visitors from around the world and has raised the profile of Whitewater Lake as a destination for birding.

- Chronic Wasting disease and TB continue to be a concern in the Western Region.

- A timber tracking unit was established in the Swan River office to improve the efficiency of reconciling crown timber.

- Mafeking staff successful in prosecuting arsonists in the Shoal River/Pelican Rapids area relating to two forest fires in 2004/05.

Table RO.20
12.3(f) Western Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,696.5	90.39	4,881.9	(185.4)	1.
Other Expenditures	1,539.2		1,542.9	(3.7)	
Total 12.3(f)	6,235.7	90.39	6,424.8	(189.1)	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to higher than anticipated vacant positions.

Red River Region

The Red River Region is comprised primarily of urban and agricultural land uses. Although the region still contains some limited natural, undeveloped areas, the majority of the land base has been significantly altered by human occupation. The focus of the work undertaken by Red River Region staff is often somewhat different than the other regions in the Operations Division.

Over 60% of Manitoba's population resides in the Red River Region. In addition to the large number of light and heavy industrial operations located in the region, agricultural industry such as livestock operations also play a major economic role in the region. Major programs associated with the above described activities administered by the region include Public Health, *The Environment Act* and The Transportation of Dangerous Goods licenses enforcement, Contaminated Sites, Petroleum Storage, On-Site Wastewater, Solid Waste Management, and Livestock Operations. The Red River Region also administers programs and services for the following areas: wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and Provincial Parks. It should be noted that the St. Malo Provincial Park in the region is the third busiest park in the province in terms of visitors per night.
The Red River Region has a Regional Office in Winnipeg and District Offices at Portage La Prairie, Steinbach, Winkler, Manitou, Morris and Winnipeg

2006/07 Annual Report Key Results Achieved

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

Compliance levels in excess of 95% for wildlife and fisheries laws.

- Regional staff undertook 1032 enforcement actions resulting in 118 charges, 127 warnings and 82 evictions from provincial parks. These actions were primarily in response to public complaints on regulatory resources issues as well as maintaining park safety and security for the public.

Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.

- There were 19 of 20 crown land lots sold at the St. Malo cottage subdivision in the Red River Region. The road construction for this subdivision is scheduled for summer 2007. It was delayed a year due to lack of suitable contractors at the completion of the tender process.

- Winnipeg District Public Health Inspectors provided invaluable assistance to deal with the large E. Coli outbreak last summer, where 77 people were sickened by a food borne illness.

- Regional Public Health Inspectors continue to participate in the Medical Officer of Health working group I in the implementation of Pseudomonas sampling program for public swimming pools.

Table RO.21
12.3(g) Red River Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,089.2	55.89	3,291.0	(201.8)	1.
Other Expenditures	913.6		933.7	(20.1)	
Total 12.3(g)	**4,002.8**	**55.89**	**4,224.7**	**(221.9)**	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to higher than anticipated vacant positions.

Fire and Emergency Response Program

Fire Program

Fire season began on April 1 with a human caused fire in the Eastern Region. The first lightning fire of the season occurred May 11 in the Eastern Region.

Most of southern Manitoba recorded well below normal precipitation, with some areas recording record dryness. This made for volatile burning conditions across most of southern Manitoba throughout the fire season.

Travel and burning restrictions were imposed for areas of the Eastern and Interlake regions from July 14 to August 6 due to the extreme fire potential.

Air Attack

Fire Program normally uses 7 CL 215 Water Bombers, 3 Cessna 310 Bird Dog aircraft, two single Turbo Otters and one Twin Otter aircraft operated by Manitoba Government Air Services. An operational loss of one CL 215 aircraft was supplemented by casual hire of CL-215's owned by Buffalo Airways for 35 days.

Manitoba received quick strike water bomber assistance from Ontario, and was able, in return, to help Ontario and Saskatchewan for a total of 37 hours.

Single Engine Air Tankers (SEAT) aircraft were hired from the private sector for a total of 51 days supplementing Manitoba's CL-215 water bombers and were positioned for community protection, new fire starts and sustained fire action.

Manitoba helicopter operations were also very active with the 5 long-term helicopter contracts being supplemented by casual hire helicopters when necessary.

Training

Training has become one of the key focuses of the fire program. Climate change has resulted in longer fire seasons and far more aggressive and dangerous fire behavior. Fireline training conducted in the past year includes the following:

- 150 Initial Attack Crew Members (Type I) were trained and certified to CIFFC Exchange Standards (included S-100, Skills, and Hover Exit Certification)
- 89 new Emergency Fire Fighters (Type II) were trained to CIFFC Exchange Standards.
- Approximately 500 Emergency Fire Fighters (Type III) were trained and certified or recertified.
- 65 Emergency Fire Fighter Crew Leaders (Type III) were trained and certified or recertified.

Additional Training included:

36 persons	- Crew Leader (S-200)
150 persons	- Incident Command System (I-100)
88 persons	- Initial Attack Fire Assessment

Operations

The fire season yielded a total of 422 lightning caused fires and 260 human caused fires. This equates to a 62-38% proportionate lightning/human caused split.

The application of an aggressive preparedness and initial attack system proved very successful in reducing the incidence of large fires in priority value areas. In total 166,050 hectares were consumed. Losses to merchantable timber areas were minimal. Of the 682 fires, 558 were full action, 17 were limited action, and 107 were no action fires.

Ninety five percent of actioned fires in the red zone were controlled within the first 24 hours. Detection methods in this zone had an 83% level of efficiency detecting 332 fires at a size of 0.5 hectares or less. Of the 402 red zone fires, 378 (94%) were controlled at a size of 5 hectares or less.

Several aircraft, personnel, and equipment imports from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario were carried out to assist Manitoba Fire Program resources during busy periods of the summer fire season through the CIFFC Mutual Aid Resource Sharing Agreement.

Field Operations

A comprehensive series of field assessments were conducted this year covering a range of areas including training, helicopter operations, crew safety and performance, Incident Management Team deployment, performance and succession planning, fire prevention program development, communications and tower management/improvements. Seven operational guidelines were developed dealing with the operation of Incident Management Teams, aircraft and fire personnel fitness.

New relationships and working agreements were developed with Radio Services branch to augment the operation of the Conservation communications system.

Prevention

Fire prevention advertising began early with the dry conditions experienced in the south and worked north with the fire season. Advertising consisted of newspaper and radio ads as well as ad placement within

publications such as the Manitoba Angler's Guide and other select publications. Radio ads also aired on the Native Communications Radio Network and some northern radio stations. Advertising was also developed geared to the fall resource users and placed in the outdoor features of select newspapers.

FIRESMART publications were distributed to past and present cottage lot recipients through the creation of dialogue and awareness of this important subject with the provincial Lands Branch.

Equipment

Equipment upgrades, improvements and sound maintenance to existing equipment items are the main focus of this program.

A Refurbishment Program for all fireline workwear has also been in place for the last two years. Dollar savings are realized by having two piece outfits for the Initial Attack Crews as shirt or trouser replacement is less expensive than coverall replacement.

The provincial Pump Parts Program continues to be a success in ensuring parts availability and engine repairs are done efficiently and economically.

Table R0.22
2006 - Number of Fires and Area Burned by Region and Cause

2006	Northeast		Northwest		Western		Interlake		Eastern		Red River		Province	
CAUSE	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)
recreation	29	147.1	3	0.5	1	0.1	4	0.4	13	3,375.7			50	3,523.8
settlement	22	7.6	1	0.2			15	38.4	26	18.3			64	64.5
woods operations			1	0.1	1	0.1	2	4.1	6	51.7			10	56.0
other industry	1	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.1	1	2.0	8	4.2			12	6.5
railroads	3	0.3	2	1.1					5	1.1			10	2.5
public projects	1	0.1											1	0.1
incendiary	36	1,685.7	2	0.2	1	0.1	16	75.6	21	39.8			76	1,801.4
miscellaneous	13	9.3	3	70.8			2	3.0	15	43.5			33	126.6
agricultural					2	3.0	4	166.9	3	2.2	1	153.7	10	325.8
lightning	180	112,764.4	62	788.3	14	8.7	10	190.1	150	37,734.4			416	151,485.9
all causes	285	114,614.6	75	861.3	20	12.1	54	480.5	247	41,270.9	1	153.7	682	157,393.1

Note: In the 2006 fire season 671 wildfires burning 132,556.7 hectares were identified by department staff. Post season investigation of hotspot data from the MODIS satellite revealed an additional 11 lightning fires that burned 24,836.4 hectares in the white zone. The Fire Program has been using this new method of data collection since 2003 to augment areas burned in the white zone that are not detected by conventional means. These fires have been added into the totals for an official number of 682 fires burning 157,393.1 hectares for the 2006 fire season.

Table R0.23
2006- Number of Fires and Area Burned by Priority Zone and Action Status

2006	Actioned Fires				No Action Fires				Limited Action Fires				All Fires			
ZONE	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned
RED	385	67.78%	1,672.7	29.26%	6	6.12%	15.8	0.01%	11	68.75%	3,491.7	9.98%	402	58.94%	5,180.2	3.29%
YELLOW	2	0.35%	20.6	0.36%									2	0.29%	20.6	0.01%
GREEN	174	30.63%	3,863.8	67.58%	36	36.73%	67,087.7	57.49%	4	25.00%	31,233.6	89.29%	214	31.38%	102,185.1	64.92%
WHITE	7	1.23%	159.9	2.80%	56	57.14%	49,590.9	42.50%	1	6.25%	256.4	0.73%	64	9.38%	50,007.2	31.77%
ALL ZONES	568	100.0%	5,717.0	100.0%	98	100.0%	116,694.4	100.0%	16	100.0%	34,981.7	100.0%	682	100.0%	157,393.1	100.0%

Note: In the 2006 fire season 671 wildfires burning 132,556.7 hectares were identified by department staff. Post season investigation of hotspot data from the MODIS satellite revealed an additional 11 lightning fires that burned 24,836.4 hectares in the white zone. The Fire Program has been using this new method of data collection since 2003 to augment areas burned in the white zone that are not detected by conventional means.These fires have been added into the totals for an official number of 682 fires burning 157,393.1 hectares for the 2006 fire season.

Red Zone	Full fire suppression
Yellow Zone	Suppression if resources available
Green Zone	Suppression if resources available
White Zone	No suppression unless values are at risk

Table RO24
2006 - Area Burned by Priority Zone

	Total Zonal Area	Hectares Burned	% of Area Burned
Red	11,415,663.5	5,180.2	0.045
Yellow	685,691	20.6	0.003
Green	9,770,018.8	102,185.1	1.046
White	23,081,244.9	50,007.2	0.217
All Zones	44,952,618.2	157,393.1	0.350

Figure 3.

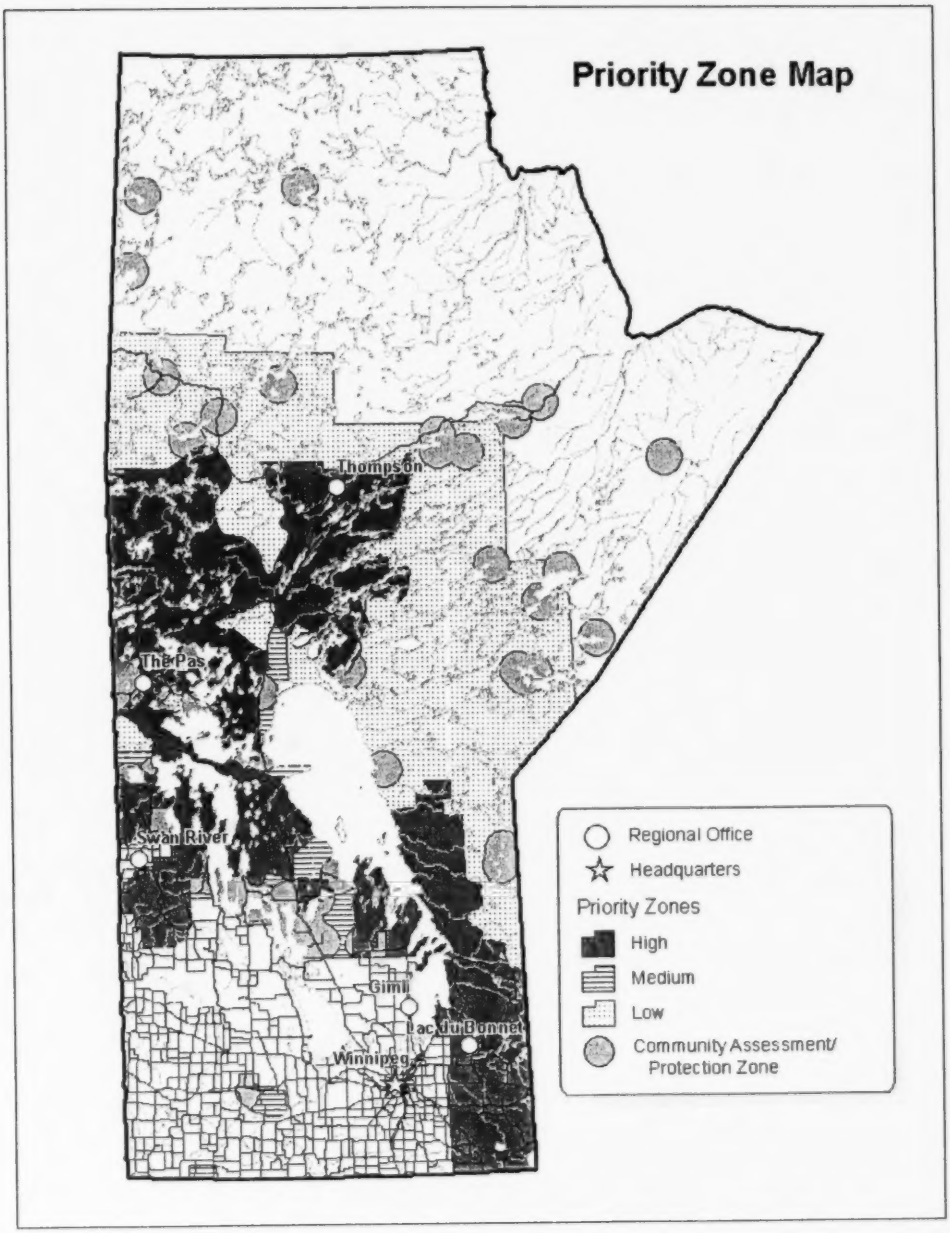

Priority Zone Map
Thompson
The Pas
Swan River
Gimli
Lac du Bonnet
Winnipeg
Regional Office
Headquarters
Priority Zones
High
Medium
Low
Community Assessment/
Protection Zone

Figure 4.

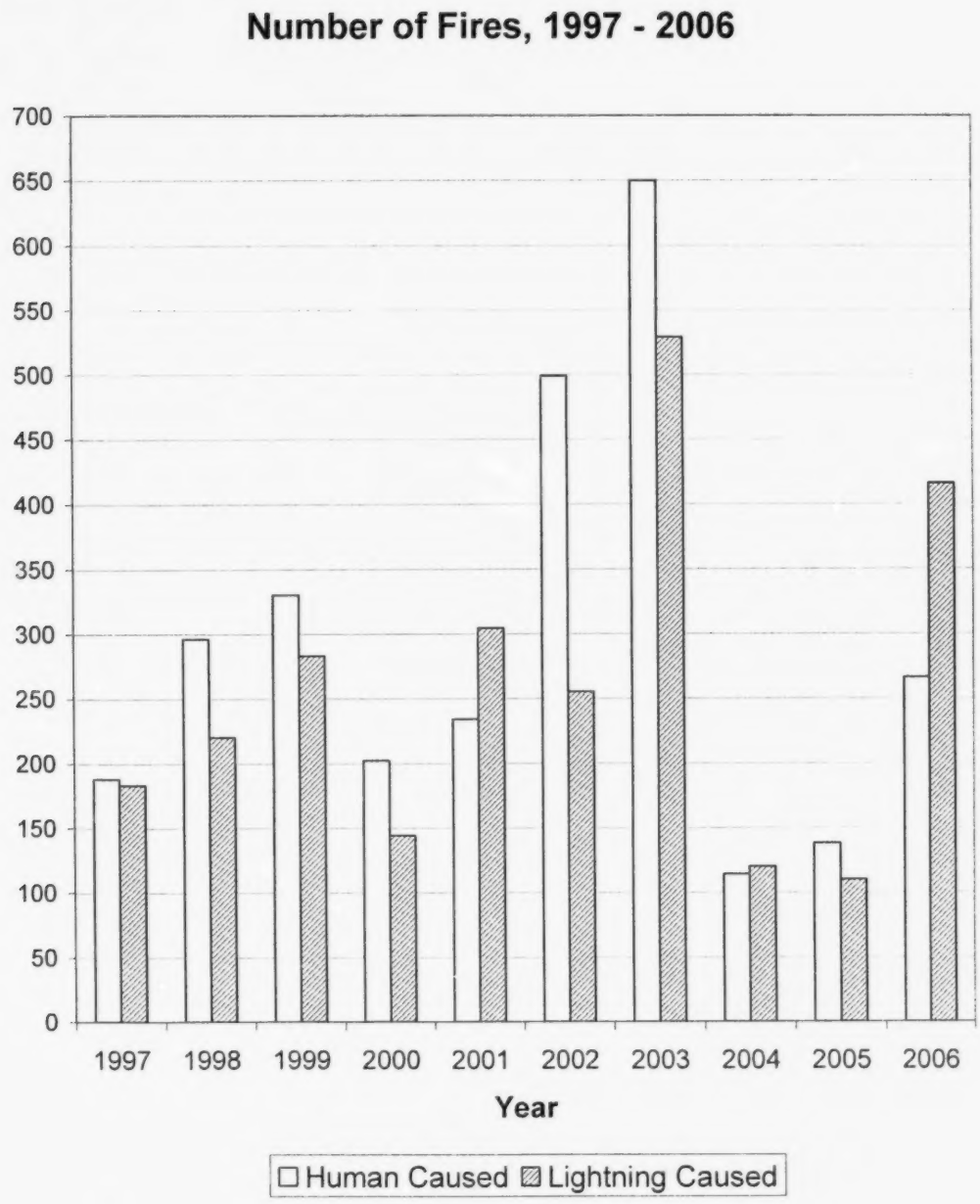
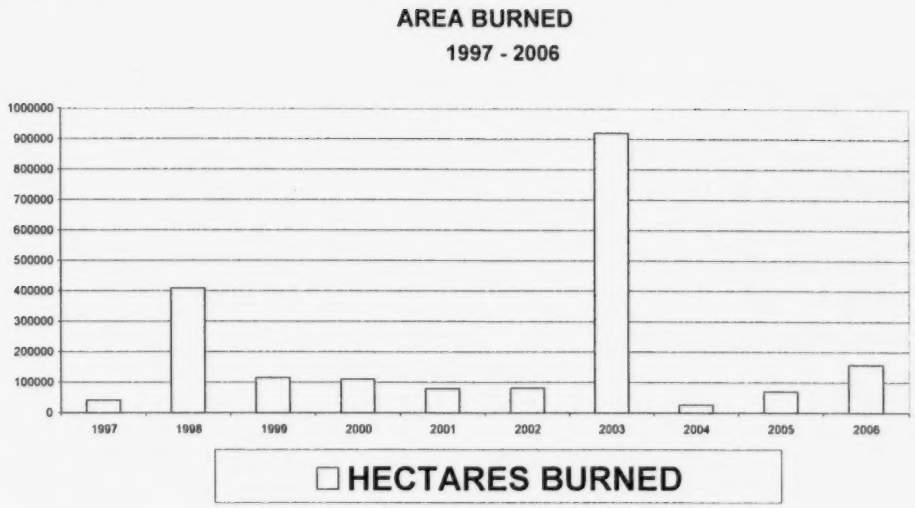

Number of Fires, 1997 - 2006
700
650
600
550
500
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
Year
Human Caused
Lightning Caused

Figure 5.



Environmental Emergency Response Team

- The emergency response program received over 2600 calls to the emergency response 24-hour line. Of these 465 were handled directly by the Department's Emergency Response Team and/or Regional personnel. The remainder of the calls were not within the Departments mandate. These were directed to the appropriate outside agency for action.
- The Department continued to upgrade and refresh the training of the Emergency Response Team and Regional personnel. Courses included but were not limited to: Incident Command; Awareness, Operations, and Technicians levels of Hazardous Materials Response; Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced levels of chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear (CBRN) response; monitoring equipment refreshers; and Specialist training for Environmental Spill Response and Recovery. Various other training initiatives were made available to the Response Program personnel to upgrade their skill sets.
- The Emergency Response Team assists the Police forces in Manitoba with identification, removal, and disposal of chemicals found in clandestine drug operations / marijuana grow operations, and helps evaluate the extent of contamination at the site for remediation purposes. The Emergency Response Team has been actively involved in training and preparedness for CBRN terrorism response in Manitoba.
- The Environmental Accident Reporting Regulation has been re-drafted for amendment. This regulation will expand the reporting requirements for environmental accidents to include contaminants previously not listed for reporting. It will help in some cases to harmonize the reporting requirements in Manitoba with the reporting requirements of the Canadian *Environmental Protection Act* and the Federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods regulations. The reporting requirements for some products will be more stringent under the Provincial legislation.

Table RO.25
Environmental Accidents

Total number of calls received by the 24-hour reporting line	2,620
Total number of environmental incidents actioned	465
Breakdown of incidents by accident type	
Transport related	75
Spills during product handling	65
Equipment failure	120
Miscellaneous	205

Table RO.26
12.3(h) Fire and Emergency Response Program

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,814.9	59.69	5,602.1	212.8	1.
Other Expenditures	9,505.6		9,220.1	285.5	2.
Total 12.3(h)	**15,320.5**	**59.69**	**14,822.2**	**498.3**	

1. Increase in Salary and Employee Benefits is mainly due to general salary increases.
2. Increase in Other Expenditures is due to increased aircraft charter costs.

Environmental Programs

Environmental Programs directs and co-ordinates Livestock Operations Support and Environment Operations, which includes the petroleum program, the dangerous goods program, the hazardous waste program, the contaminated sites program, the onsite wastewater management program and the public health program.

Livestock Operations Support

The primary objective of Livestock Operations Support is to ensure consistent administration of the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation* across the province. This program is supported by the development of procedures, protocols and standards for application by regionally based staff. Regional responsibilities include regular inspection of storage facilities for manure and mortalities, inspection of manure storage facilities during construction, investigation of complaints, response to reports of manure spills and enforcement of regulations. Standards for the construction of manure storage facilities and for construction of confined areas such as feedlots and bio-tech shelters were prepared and released to industry.

The following results and key program outputs were achieved in 2006/07:

2006/07 Expected Results	2006/07 Key Results Achieved	Key Program Outputs
Manure storage facilities are constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that minimizes impacts upon human health and the environment.	Registration of manure storage facilities that were constructed prior to regulatory requirements for permits is mandatory. The registration process provides a way to have the environmental performance of these older facilities inspected and assessed regularly. Operations with 300 animal units or greater are required to submit annual source water analysis reports to Manitoba Conservation.	Applications for registration of 405 manure storage facilities have been received. The applications are being processed, which includes assessment of environmental sensitivity and prioritization for inspection. The department received 343 source water monitoring submissions in 2006. In 2006, 44 permits for construction, modification and repair of manure storage facilities were issued.
Manure is applied as a fertilizer to farmland in a manner that is consistent with regulatory requirements.	Manure Management Plans are an effective tool for ensuring the sustainability of livestock production by requiring prior-to-spreading calculation of the rate of manure application that is agronomically appropriate and environmentally sound.	488 Manure Management Plans were processed and registered in 2006. The department conducted 33 audits (6.76% of the plans).

2006/07 Expected Results	2006/07 Key Results Achieved	Key Program Outputs
Manure spills are responded to rapidly and cleaned-up effectively in order to minimize impacts upon human health and the environment.	Producers are required to report manure spills to environment officers.	There were 18 manure spills reported to staff during 2006. Most spills were relatively minor and many involved failures in couplings, cleanout blockage or sections of manure pipelines during pumping. Instructions that have been issued to operators should reduce the frequency of this type of occurrence in the future. There were three significant spills reported. One involved a wet well overflow that spilled 500,000 litres of manure where some manure escaped to the roadside ditch. The second instance involved a wash-out of the berm around a valve of an earthen manure storage facility. Approximately 1,500,000 litres were spilled before the flow was halted by filling in the washout. The third incident involved approximately 10,000 litres spilling from a barn pit. All spills were properly reported. Of the 18 reported spills, four Environment Officer Orders were issued. The remaining 14 spills were properly cleaned up and pose no long term risk to the environment.
Program delivery is consistent and livestock producers are treated equitably across the province.	Extension efforts continue to be a priority for the program.	Staff has met on numerous occasions during the year with livestock producers, most producer organizations, environmental advocacy groups, other government agencies and the general public to communicate regulatory requirements.
There is wide awareness of regulatory requirements among livestock producers and certainty that the requirements are being enforced.	Most commonly committed offences that warranted action continue to involve improper disposal or storage of mortalities and the spillage, escape or improper storage of manure.	Table RO.1 summarizes enforcement of environmental livestock regulations since 1998.

2006/07 Expected Results	2006/07 Key Results Achieved	Key Program Outputs
A regulation that addresses associated environmental concerns in a manner that is effective and able to be complied with by industry.	In January, Manitoba's Phosphorus Expert Committee submitted its final report to the Minister regarding regulation of manure application on the basis of phosphorus levels. Following review of the recommendations and consultation with stakeholders, the Minister recommended that the regulation be amended. Significant changes as a result of the November 8, 2006 amendment, MR 219/2006, included new restrictions on fall and winter manure application in regularly inundated areas including the Red River Valley Special Management Area, new setback requirements for manure application on land adjacent to surface water and new regulatory phosphorus thresholds limiting allowable application of manure to land.	Prior to November 8, 2006 when Manitoba Regulation 219/2006 was registered the department conducted consultations throughout agro-Manitoba jointly with Water Stewardship as follows: nine formal public consultations conducted; three pubic consultations arranged by Manitoba Pork Council and Manitoba Cattle Producers Association; and five consultations at the request of stakeholders.
	In November, 2006, the Minister of Conservation announced the draft amendment to the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation* to temporarily pause the issuance of permits for hog operations. MR 238/2006 was registered on December 7, 2006. The amendment temporarily suspends the director of authority to issue construction permits re: hogs. The suspension for issuance of permits for construction of confined livestock areas and manure storage facilities will be in place until the Clean Environment Commission has completed its review of the environmental sustainability of hog operations and provides a report to the Minister of Conservation.	Prior to December 7, 2006 when Manitoba Regulation 238/2006 was registered, the department received 1,814 written submissions during the review period from November 8-24, 2006.

Table RO.27

12.3(i) Livestock Operations Support

Expenditures by Total Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	446.1	5.00	347.9	98.2	
Other Expenditures	335.9		733.7	(397.8)	1.
Total 12.3(i)	**782.0**	**5.00**	**1,081.6**	**(299.6)**	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to reduced operating costs $(256.3) and costs budgeted as Other Expenditures but subsequently determined to be Salaries and Employee Benefits ($141.5).

Environment Operations

The primary objectives of Environment Operations are to develop environmental regulations, operational guidelines, policies and procedures and to coordinate regional delivery of environmental programs. These are programs related to hazardous waste, petroleum storage, contaminated sites, onsite wastewater management, and other matters related to the environment. Environment Operations provides technical support to regions, the Department, and external clients to enable compliance with and promote understanding of environmental programs. The section also oversees the Department's Environmental Management System (EMS) computer database.

Environment Operations staff represent the Department on national committees such as the Canadian Environmental Protection Act National Advisory Committee, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Soil Quality Guidelines Task Group, and the CCME Committee on Health and Environment.

Environment Operations also supported the public health program until its transfer to Manitoba Health effective April 2007.

Key Results Achieved:

2006/07 was a transition year for Environment Operations as it prepared to restructure in order to raise the awareness of environmental programs and enhance program delivery across the regions. Clients continue to have access to information, permits, and training which enables them to comply with the legislated requirements governing environmental programs. The EMS computer database has been upgraded and Environment Operations is working with regional staff to ensure data is entered in a timely and accurate manner.

Hazardous Waste

- The hazardous waste program administers *The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act* and its regulations related to hazardous waste.
- Environment Operations initiated a regulatory amendment process intended to streamline the manifest requirements and update the classification criteria for hazardous waste.

Manifest copies received in 2006/07	28,270
Generator registration forms processed in 2006/07	324
Transporter licence applications processed in 2006/07	9
PCB disposal applications processed in 2006/07	32

Petroleum Storage

- The petroleum storage program administers the *Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Products Regulation* under *The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act.*
- Environment Operations is coordinating an initiative to upgrade petroleum storage requirements to better protect human health and the environment.

Active petroleum storage sites	2,326
Inactive petroleum storage sites	221
Licensed Petroleum Technicians	122
Permits to construct new facilities issued in 2006/07	63

Contaminated Sites

- The contaminated sites program administers *The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act* (CSRA).
- More than 2,000 sites with contamination greater than the lowest applicable guideline value are tracked to protect human health and the environment. Seven of these sites are designated as contaminated under the CSRA.
- The Department previously identified and recorded approximately $39 million in environmental liabilities for 286 sites that are department-owned sites or sites that may become abandoned or orphaned sites but for which the department may become responsible. Environment Operations initiated a process to confirm the value of booked liabilities and begin remediation of priority sites already identified for clean-up.

Onsite Wastewater Management Systems

- The onsite wastewater management systems program administers the *Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation* under *The Environment Act.*
- Environment Operations organized provincial advertising and prepared an information brochure as part of an education campaign to promote the use of holding tanks.

New systems registered in 2006/07	1,763
Certified installers	359
Registered haulers	165

Table RO.28
12.3(j) Environment Operations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	422.6	11.00	708.7	(286.1)	1.
Other Expenditures	91.1		65.3	25.8	
Total 12.3(j)	**513.7**	**11.00**	**774.0**	**(260.3)**	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits was due to higher than anticipated vacant positions.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS DIVISION

Divisional Administration

Divisional administration provides strategic management of Manitoba's natural resources and environment (parks, lands, forests, wildlife and air) in keeping with the principles of sustainable development.

Table CP.1
12.4(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	278.1	2.00	296.2	(18.1)	
Other Expenditures	354.2		403.7	(49.5)	
Total 12.4(a)	**632.3**	**2.00**	**699.9**	**(67.6)**	

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative

The Initiative continued to support wildlife and habitat management projects with funds from a special impost on hunting licences. Hunter-funded projects included:

- A hunting heritage program that supported organizations and events that promote and encourage hunting.

- Support for mentored youth hunting events that provide an educational experience to encourage hunting among Manitoba's youth. The purpose is to introduce youth to the concepts of ethical utilization and stewardship of waterfowl and other natural resources, encourage youth and adults to experience the outdoors together and to contribute to the long-term conservation and management of game birds. Mentored hunting events have been available for waterfowl and wild turkeys, and for the first time were introduced for deer hunting in 2006.

- The Chambers/Colomb Assistantships provided financial assistance to one university student for the following projects: Hunter Recruitment and Retention: Piping Plover Recovery.

- Development of land management strategies such as forestry plans and practices to secure the future of Manitoba's threatened boreal woodland caribou. Some animals from selected ranges are equipped with GPS and VHF radio collars to enable biologists to monitor movement and thereby identify critical ranges. Data are used to identify habitat preferences and examine mechanisms for cycling habitat with the objective being to have habitat available for the future.

- Monitoring urban goose populations within Winnipeg and implementing measures to reduce conflicts between people and geese.

- Aerial moose surveys were conducted in Game Hunting Areas 17A, 13, 13A, 18, 18A, 18B and 18C.

- Support to the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre that provides diagnostic services and valuable wildlife disease information and management advice.

Table WH.1
12.4(b) Wildlife Enhancement Initiative

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	217.8		225.0	(7.2)	
Total 12.4(b)	**217.8**		**225.0**	**(7.2)**	

Parks & Natural Areas

Description

Parks and Natural Areas Branch is responsible for Provincial Parks, Ecological Reserves and Canadian Heritage Rivers, managing these areas for the long-term benefit of Manitobans and the environment. These lands protect unique, representative or outstanding natural, cultural, and heritage features and resources, conserve ecosystems, and provide recreational and educational opportunities to over 5 million visitors each year. The Branch also has a prominent role in identification and establishment of other protected and natural areas.

Key Results Achieved

Generated $10.7 million in revenue by persons using the parks for personal enjoyment, commercial and general use.

A new, made-in-Manitoba Parks Reservation system was deployed in 2006. This new service won the 2007 Project Management Institute (Manitoba) award and the Manitoba Service Excellence Team Award. Reservations were made available through a call centre, on-line or through 11 campground offices in 2006. Improvements to the system included a more flexible search capability, more detailed campground maps and a more user-friendly display of available sites that makes it easier than ever to book a campsite in Manitoba's parks.

The First Nations and public consultation processes required to renew the present Park Reserve status for Pelican Islands, Walter Cook Caves, Goose Islands, Sturgeon Bay, Pemmican Island and Kinwow Bay Park Reserves were completed, and the Park Reserves renewed for an additional five years. Similar work was undertaken to add important colonial nesting bird habitat of the Cormorant Islands to the Grand Island Park Reserve was also completed.

The Duck Mountain Provincial Park Management Plan was completed. The plan focuses on trail management, recreational vehicle use, habitat fragmentation issues, water quality monitoring, sustainable forest management and preservation of remote areas.

The Hayes River was formally designated as a Canadian Heritage River in the summer of 2006, and the Red River was nominated for a similar designation.

The Park Districts section administered about 6,300 vacation homes on leased, permitted and private lands in Parks. 389 permits were issued for cottage construction or structural modification; 400 leasehold inspections were carried out; and various land use permits were issued. The Commercial Operations unit managed relations with private-sector business operators and special consideration organizations to ensure high-quality services for visitors.

New and enhanced campground facilities were developed under the Provincial Camping Initiative including "Comfort Camping" products, such as yurts and cabins, in four locations.

911 emergency telephone service was introduced to Birds Hill, Grand Beach and the southern portion of Whiteshell Provincial Park.

The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) continued work to identify land owned by conservation agencies within agro-Manitoba that have the potential to become protected areas. To that end, a $200,000 grant was awarded to the Nature Conservancy of Canada in support of their "Campaign for Conservation". PAI was also involved in the establishment of 11,859 hectares of new protected areas.

Administration

Description

The Administration Section is responsible for establishing strategic direction and guidelines, ensuring conformity to Department policies and government goals, and assessing the effectiveness of programs and services offered to the public. This section provides many functions including administrative and human resources support, capital budget coordination and the management of fees collected from Park users, commercial concessions, and leased properties. Work programs are reviewed to ensure that goals are met, and that expenditures conform to estimates, legislation, and policies. The Branch participates on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board and the Canadian Parks Council. Grants were provided to the International Peace Garden, Manitoba Wildlife Foundation (upkeep and public programs at Fort Whyte Centre for Environmental Education), Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters (water safety public education and programming) and Canadian Parks Council (for the promotion and management of parks).

Key Results Achieved

- Managed park programs and facilities in accordance with policies, procedures and standards to meet branch, department and government goals. Developed park programs and facilities according to the branch current and capital spending estimates.
- Generated $10.7 million in revenue by persons using the parks for personal enjoyment, commercial and general use.
- Conducted the activities of Parks and Natural Areas in a manner consistent with policy, the departmental mission, and government priorities.
- Provided grants to organizations who implemented activities in accordance with branch policy, departmental mission, and government priorities.
- Initiated the Parks District Service review through consultation with cottagers and commercial operators who are located in provincial parks.

Table PA.1
12.4(c)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	533.6	4.00	419.0	114.6	
Other Expenditures	833.9		304.7	529.2	1.
Grant Assistance	263.7		263.7	0.0	
Total 12.4(c)1	**1,631.2**	**4.00**	**987.4**	**643.8**	

1. Increase in Other Expenditures is mainly due to costs related to the Park District Service project.

Planning and Development

Description

The Planning and Development Section prepares land-use plans, development plans, policies, and regulations to guide establishment, management, and development of the Park system, to:

- Conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity;
- Preserve unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources; and
- Provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting.

The Section guides establishment and management of new Provincial Parks and Ecological Reserves. It manages the Canadian Heritage Rivers program in Manitoba and co-ordinates provincial input to national park establishment initiatives. The Section undertakes environmental licensing and land use allocation reviews, completes park management plans and provides design services for the park system.

Over the 2006/07 year, staff from the section participated in additional programs both internal to the branch and to other agencies. Examples include:

- Support to the Protected Areas Initiative
- Support to the World Heritage Site proposal
- Participation on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System committee
- Participation on the Floodway Recreation Committee
- Support and advice to the development of infrastructure across the park system
- Review of building and lot development proposals for leaseholders in the Hecla Heritage Village
- Review of development related to the Hecla Resort and Spa
- Consultation with stakeholders and the public to advance park system planning, management planning and site development

Park System Planning

Description

This program is responsible for identifying strategic direction of the Manitoba Provincial Park System, as well as establishing both new and revised park boundaries, classifications, primary park goals and objectives and Land Use Categories. This is done via consultation involving the public, stakeholders, First Nations and government agencies. A major function at present is undertaking the review process required to confirm permanent designations for existing Park Reserves.

Key Results Achieved

- The First Nations and public consultation processes required to add the important colonial nesting bird habitat of the Cormorant Islands to the Grand Island Park Reserve, and to renew the present Park Reserve status, were completed and the Park Reserve renewed for an additional five years;

- The First Nations and public consultation processes required to renew the present Park Reserve status for Walter Cook Caves, Pelican Islands, Goose Islands, Sturgeon Bay, Pemmican Island and Kinwow Bay Park Reserves were completed, and the Park Reserves renewed for an additional five years;

- The public consultation process required to amend the boundary of Whitemouth Falls Provincial Park to allow improved regional land use and designate new park land to protect Great Grey Owl habitat was completed, and action to be taken in the future based on recommendations;

- The public consultation process required to amend the boundary of Pinawa Dam Provincial Park to designate new park land to enhance recreational experiences and to accept a donation of land from the Friends of Old Pinawa was completed, and action to be taken in the future based on recommendations;

- The public consultation process required with the Rural Municipality of St Francois Xavier regarding the addition of river bottom forest land and a road allowance to Beaudry Provincial Park was completed, and action to be taken in the future based on recommendations;

- The public consultation process required to redesignate the East Paint Lake Park Reserve as permanent Provincial Park Land and add it to Paint Lake Provincial Park was completed, and action to be taken in the future based on recommendations;

- The First Nations and public consultation processes required to enable portions of the Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve to be utilized for a new community wharf and for a long-term community gravel source was completed, and action to be taken in the future based on recommendations;

- Recommendations to increase the amount of protected land in Nopiming Provincial Park following the completion of the public consultation process, and to address needed corrections to this regulation, and action to be taken in the future based on recommendations;

- Work with First Nations communities to confirm park goals and objectives related to the Chitek Lake and Grand Island Park Reserves continued;

- Work on the preparation of a document outlining the entire provincial park system and confirming park classifications, land use categories and park goals and objectives for all parks currently in the system, and outlining priorities for new parks to complete the provincial park system continued, and:

- Work continued with the Manitoba Eco-Network to develop an interactive information and virtual trip product based on the Manigotagan River for the Manitoba Parks website.

Management Planning

Description

The Planning and Development Section is responsible for preparing park management plans, developing park policies and facilitating resource management projects. Development of management plans for individual provincial parks is a requirement of section 11 of *The Provincial Parks Act*. Management plans address topics such as park use, landscape protection and recreational development, and ensure that the main purposes of the park are considered when land use decisions are made. They provide details on what land uses are appropriate and ensure that new activities or developments are compatible with the long-term management of the park.

Key Results Achieved

- In 2006/07, a Management Plan for Duck Mountain Provincial Park was competed. The plan focuses on trail management, recreational vehicle use, habitat fragmentation issues, water quality monitoring, sustainable forest management and preservation of remote areas. Sites for future campground expansion have been identified and guidelines developed to facilitate boat caching and camping in backcountry areas by licensed big game hunters. Resource management projects conducted in 2006/07 include Spruce Woods prairie management, wildlife research activities in parks, and off-road vehicle impact studies. Planning and Development continued to represent Manitoba Conservation

on a steering committee for the annual Parks and Protected Areas Research Forum of Manitoba, held in October 2006.

Key Program Outputs

- As a result of the management planning process for Duck Mountain Provincial Park, new onsite wastewater disposal requirements (holding tanks) have been introduced to better protect water quality at Duck Mountain Provincial Park. Plans to establish a Trails Working Group at Duck Mountain Provincial Park were initiated, to enable recreational ATV use in Duck Mountain Provincial Park that is user-based and environmentally sustainable. Park Directives for all parks dealing with fish stocking, boat caching, geocaching and harvest of non-timber forest products were prepared.

Design and Development

Description

This Section provides development direction, site planning, and public facility design and mapping. Staff participated on the Watchable Wildlife Working Group with Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch and Manitoba Tourism; the Shoreline Erosion Technical Committee; Falcon Lake Townsite Design Standards Committee and on the Interdepartmental Recreational Trails Committee. Major projects included:

Key Results Achieved

- Participation in the provincial cottaging and camping initiatives and park building designs aimed at increasing environmentally friendly campgrounds. Planning included campground reorganizations, new bays and buildings, yurt development, and other projects in a variety of parks throughout the system.
- Management of the contract with MMP Architects for the design of the Birds Hill Campground office expansion and the Birds Hill Shower building and the West Hawk Lake Campground shower building.
- Management of a number of washroom and shower buildings and potable water systems being designed by Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation.
- Management of the private development of several roads and private subdivisions within Provincial Parks.
- Planning and designing a number of trails and trail systems including Hecla Island's Black Wolf Trail, Beaudry Park trail expansion, West Hawk Crater Lake Trail and Birds Hill Trail System.
- Designing various projects to be either delivered through the 2006/07 Capital program or for estimating as part of the 2007/08 program. Examples include: Winnipeg Beach Seawall landscape plan, Birds Hill Amphitheatre design, Falcon Lake Water Treatment Plant landscape plan, Otter Falls Parking Lot, Whiteshell Entrance Signs location concepts and Yurt locations at various parks.

Ecological Reserves

Description

Ecological Reserves are established under *The Ecological Reserves Act* to protect areas with unique and representative plants, animals, geologic features, natural landscapes, and ecological processes.

Key Results Achieved

- No new ecological reserves were designated. Work continued on concluding reviews of previously nominated sites for future designations. At the request of and with the support of nearby First Nations, the areas of Pelican Islands and Walter Cook Caves, were renewed as park reserves in 2006/07 for five more years to allow for further consultation. These were originally nominated as ecological reserves and given interim protection as park reserves in 2001/02.

- The Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee, appointed under *The Ecological Reserves Act,* met twice during 2006/07 to review sites and advance the program. The Committee forwarded the nomination of one site to the Minister; review of this site was well advanced by March 31, 2007.

- The Minister tabled the Five-year Report to the Legislature on *Ecological Reserves: April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2004* on November 14, 2006, as per *The Ecological Reserves Act.* This is the third such report to the Legislature. Copies of the report are available on the Conservation website at: http://www.gov.mb.ca/ conservation/parks/ecological_reserves/index.html

- Two scientific research permits were issued for studies in ecological reserves but researchers were only able to conduct one of studies. Sites in Long Point and in Brokenhead Wetlands Ecological Reserves were sampled as part of a study of eastern white cedar dynamics and ecology in Manitoba. Logistical constraints did not allow researchers to conduct a biological reconnaissance of part of Reindeer Island Ecological Reserve.

- Potentially significant impacts of two major development projects on two ecological reserves were considered though the environmental review process. Implications to the Pocock Lake Ecological Reserve from the Pembina Valley Co-operative well and pipeline in Sandilands Provincial Forest were explicitly addressed as part of *The Environment Act* review process. Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation designed their bridge replacement project on PTH 10 beside Lake Winnipegosis Salt Flats Ecological Reserve to avoid impacts on the ecological reserve.

Canadian Heritage Rivers System

Description

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is Canada's national river conservation program. It promotes, protects and enhances Canada's river heritage, and ensures that Canada's leading rivers are managed in a sustainable manner. The CHRS is built on river stewardship, co-operation and public support. Member rivers possess outstanding natural and/or cultural values, offer quality recreational opportunities, and showcase the benefits of healthy river environments, now and in the future.

Key Results Achieved

Planning and Development had considerable involvement in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System program in 2006/07:

- The Hayes River was formally designated as a member of the CHRS in the summer of 2006.
- Three plaque unveiling ceremonies were conducted in co-operation with the First Nations along the Hayes River.
- An Education Kit for the Hayes River was developed in co-operation with Frontier School Division.
- The Red River was nominated to the CHRS, and planning work with Rivers West for the formal designation of the Red River to the CHRS was initiated.
- Staff worked with Rivers West to complete the Management Plan for the Red River.

Key Program Outputs

The Hayes River was officially designated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) in the summer of 2007. In 2006/07, distribution of an Education Kit to schools along the Hayes River was initiated.

Planning and Development staff also worked in co-operation with Rivers West, a non-profit organization seeking Heritage River status for the Red River. The Red River was officially nominated to the CHRS in 2007. In 2006/07, all CHRS reporting requirements were met, including submission of a ten-year report for the Seal River and annual reports for each of Manitoba's designated rivers (Seal, Hayes and Bloodvein).

Table PA.2
12.4(c)2 Parks Planning and Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	596.7	9.00	528.2	68.5	
Other Expenditures	235.9		248.8	(12.9)	
Total 12.4(c)2	**832.6**	**9.00**	**777.0**	**55.6**	

Park Operations and Maintenance

Regional Operations Division operates and maintains Parks to provide high-quality, safe and enjoyable outdoor recreational and educational opportunities, while ensuring compliance with provincial laws.

For more details please see regional/parks summaries highlighted in the Regional Operations Division section of this Annual Report.

Table PA.3
12.4(c)3 Park Operations and Maintenance

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	12,669.6	225.98	12,274.0	395.6	1.
Other Expenditures	5,701.3		5,871.6	(170.3)	
Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(468.9)		(475.8)	6.9	
Total 12.4(c)3	**17,902.0**	**225.98**	**17,669.8**	**232.2**	

1. Increase in Salaries and Employee Benefits is mainly due to departmental staffing requirements for increased Parks Operations and Maintenance project activities.

Park Districts and Support Services

Description

Park Districts

The Park Districts Section administers the Vacation Home Lot program, Commercial operations and Special Consideration Organization (SCO) operations under the authority of *The Provincial Parks Act* and regulations including the Park Activities Regulation and the Permits and Leases regulation. The section manages and controls land use activities and developments on vacation home, commercial business, and SCO lots. Management decisions are prescribed in various legislations, regulations and policy guidelines such as The Cottager's Handbook for Manitoba Provincial Parks. The costs of road maintenance, garbage handling, provision of water and sewer and other municipal type services provided to lessees, permittees and private landowners are recovered from those users through an annual invoicing program.

Outdoor Recreation

The Outdoor Recreation section sets the direction of the outdoor recreation and the interpretation programs in Manitoba Provincial Parks and evaluates and implements new initiatives in campground, day-use, backcountry management and outdoor education, as well as customer-service training and volunteer activities. The Section guides and supports Regional Operations in ensuring high-quality outdoor recreational experiences. This includes analysis of operating strategies and procedures, policy review, market research, marketing strategy development, promotion, and statistical compilation and trend evaluation. The Interpretation program undertakes research leading to trail and brochure development and delivery of live programs throughout the park system.

Beach Safety

The Beach Safety Program in Manitoba Parks is primarily focused on public relations and water safety education and is provided under contract at three provincial park beaches (Birds Hill, Grand Beach and Winnipeg Beach). Officers provide onsite water safety education and emergency response as required. Provincial parks offer beach opportunities at 82 other non-staffed locations.

Interpretation

The Interpretation Program offers visitors a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources in provincial parks. This in turn assists the public in understanding the goals and programs of the department. Live field programs, complemented by publications, outdoor exhibits, and audio-visual materials bring visitors in direct contact with park resources and management.

Key Results Achieved

Park Districts

- The Vacation Home Program, in co-operation with the Crown Land and Property Agency, administered about 6,300 vacation homes on leased, permitted and private lands in Parks. With respect to the lot development management aspect of this program, 389 Permits were issued for cottage construction or structural modification. This program generated $4.9 million in revenue. There were approximately 400 leasehold inspections carried out.

- The Commercial Operations unit managed relations with private-sector business operators to ensure high-quality services for visitors. Approximately 130 commercial operations provide such services as restaurants, stores, accommodation, golf courses, marinas, and beach concessions throughout

Manitoba's 80 Provincial Parks. Also, some 45 Special Consideration Organizations offer various educational, religious, and outdoor recreation programs.

- Land Use Activities permits were issued for commercial fishing, wild rice cultivation, trapline cabin construction, hay and grazing, scientific research, and mineral claim-staking and exploration.

- Policy, procedures and guidelines for park districts budget preparation were developed in consultation with owners and occupiers of land within provincial parks.

- Continued review and evaluation of the Park District Service System in conjunction with owners and occupiers to develop a more effective system.

Support Services

- Delivery of the outdoor recreation program in Manitoba's provincial parks including camping; Parks Reservation Service; Beach Safety; and Campground Host.

- A new, made-in-Manitoba Parks Reservation system was deployed in 2006. This new service won the 2007 Project Management Institute (Manitoba) award and the Manitoba Service Excellence Team Award. Reservations were made available through a call centre, on-line or through 11 campground offices in 2006. Improvements to the system included a more flexible search capability, more detailed campground maps and a more user-friendly display of available sites that makes it easier than ever to book a campsite in Manitoba's parks.

- New and enhanced campground facilities were developed under the Provincial Camping Initiative including "Comfort Camping" products such as yurts and cabins.

- Promoted park programs and initiatives through newspaper advertisements, news releases and handouts. Information included opening and closing dates, May long-weekend liquor-free camping and the new Parks Reservation Service. Also included was the distribution of promotional items to community events, non-profit organizations and youth groups.

- Introduced 911 emergency telephone service to Birds Hill, Grand Beach and the southern portion of Whiteshell Provincial Park. Will continue to support the initiative to introduce 911 emergency telephone service to Duck Mountain, Hecla/Grindstone and Clearwater provincial parks.

Beach Safety

- New contracts for beach patrol services at the three staffed beaches were secured.

- Manitoba Parks provided a $5,000 grant to the Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters (MCSW) for water safety public education purposes, and was involved in the drowning prevention component of the Provincial Injury Prevention Strategy. The MCSW continued to build its water safety strategy and framework, which included delivery of the Northern Swim Program and the PFD Loaner Program to northern Manitoba communities.

Interpretation

- Delivery of the field program included a full-time interpreter at Birds Hill, and 22 seasonal interpreters. Programs were presented at Spruce Woods, Hecla/Grindstone, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Whiteshell, St. Norbert, St. Malo, Lockport, Paint Lake, River Road and Turtle Mountain Provincial Parks. In addition, Green Team members provided assistance at these parks. Interpreters contacted about 90,000 visitors at interpreter-led events and in interpretive centres and museums.

- Interpretive trails were developed and upgraded consistent with the work plan and personal interpretive programming is provided in 11 provincial parks.

- The Heritage Properties program was coordinated in Manitoba's Provincial Parks including building assessment and restoration work.

Key Program Outputs

Park Districts Programming	**Amount**
Vacation Homes	6,300
Commercial Operations	130
Special Consideration Organizations	45
Permits for cottage construction or structural modification	389
Revenue Generated	$4.9 million
Leasehold Inspections	400 (+/-)

Outdoor Recreation Programming	**Amount**
Number of visitors	5.2 million
Number of campsites	5,871
Transient	4,377 (3,317 available for reservation or 76%)
Seasonal	1,481
Transient Camping Nights	189,270
Seasonal Camping Nights	44,430
Campgrounds offering reservation	39
Group Use Areas	22

Outdoor Recreation Programming	**Amount**
Cabin Locations	2
Yurt Locations	5
Reservations	47,870
Reservation Rate, compared to 2005/06	11,099 more reservations or 30% increase
Reservations over Web	51%
Reservations made opening day April 10, 2006	6000

Table PA.4
12.4(c)4 Support Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	702.7	11.00	581.4	121.3	1.
Other Expenditures	856.0		751.8	104.2	2.
Total 12.4(c)4	**1,558.7**	**11.00**	**1,333.2**	**225.5**	

1. Increase in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to Parks Reservation Service salaries and employee benefits.
2. Increase in Other Expenditures is due to Parks Reservation Service operational costs.

Protected Areas Initiative

Description

The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) contributes to long-term sustainable development by assembling a network of core protected areas designed to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity across Manitoba. Protected areas consist of land, freshwater, or marine areas that are free from oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric development, logging, mining, and other activities that may significantly and adversely affect habitat. Protected lands can include national parks, ecological reserves, provincial parks and park reserves, wildlife management areas, provincial forests and private lands that meet the province's definition of protected.

The goal of the PAI is to establish, for each of the 18 natural regions and sub-regions of the province, a network of protected areas containing an adequate and representative sample of the region's diverse landscapes. A geographic information system (GIS) is used to identify and evaluate potential areas, and track progress towards meeting this goal.

Key Results Achieved

- Important work continued this year with the mining and forestry industries, First Nation and Northern Affairs communities, and environmental organizations regarding protected areas. The review of protected areas proposals in Natural Region 4c (Tembec's Forest Management License #1) concluded with First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and stakeholders. The Integrated Science Advisory Committee and the Eastern Region Integrated Technical Team completed a review of Areas of Special Interest (ASI) in Natural Region 5c resulting in 42 protected area proposals. The PAI initiated the review a number of ASIs located along Hudson Bay with Shamattawa and York Factory First Nations. Work continued this year to identify land owned by conservation agencies within agro-Manitoba that have the potential to become protected areas. To that end, a $200,000 grant was awarded to the Nature Conservancy of Canada in support of their "Campaign for Conservation".

- The PAI continued to participate in the development of the national Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS) schema (standardized dataset) as a component of the National Forest Information System (NFIS). This included the development of a guidebook for the application of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categories to standardize reporting of protected areas within Canada, in particular for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Manitoba also participated in the development of the Canadian Protected Areas Status Report 2000-2005 which assesses the current state of terrestrial and marine protected areas in Canada.

Key Program Outputs

New Protected Areas	Area (hectares)	Protected Under
Part of Delta Marsh Wildlife Management Area	8,125	The Wildlife Act
Wakopa Wildlife Management Area	66	The Wildlife Act
Wellington Wildlife Management Area	55	The Wildlife Act
Ducks Unlimited Canada Private Lands	3,443	Memorandum of Agreement
Grand Island Park Reserve Expansion	170	The Provincial Parks Act

Currently, 5.4 million hectares (or 8.4 per cent of Manitoba) are protected. This includes two national parks, 21 ecological reserves, all or parts of 42 provincial parks and interim protected park reserves, all or parts of 46 wildlife management areas, parts of two provincial forests, and 87 parcels of private land owned by conservation agencies.

Figure 6: Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas.

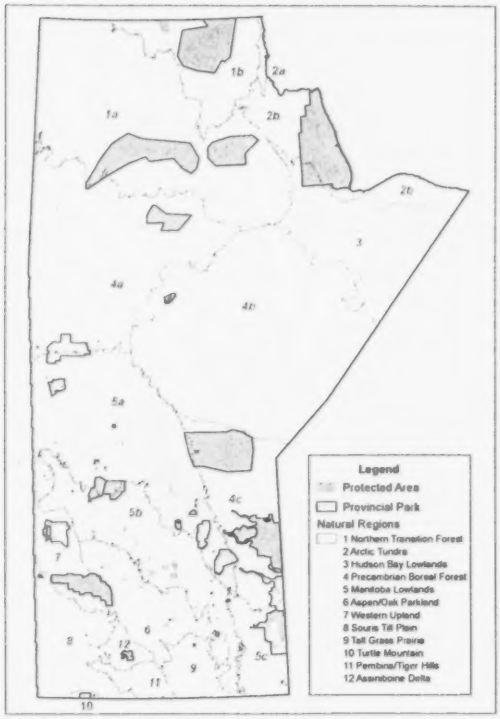


Table PA.5
12.4(c)5 Protected Areas

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	243.2	3.00	214.7	28.5	
Other Expenditures	51.2		115.5	(64.3)	
Grant Assistance	200.0		200.0	0.0	
Total 12.4(c)5	**494.4**	**3.00**	**530.2**	**(35.8)**	

Air Quality Management

To ensure the sustainable use of our air quality resources for the benefit of citizens today, while safeguarding these resources for future generations, the Section:

- Develops and reviews objectives and guidelines for air pollutants of concern,
- Monitors ambient (outdoor) air quality in urban areas and near selected industrial sources to measure adherence to objectives and guidelines,
- Undertakes special air quality projects,
- Provides scientific and technical support to the Department, other agencies and the public,
- Prepares reports and evaluates peer reports,
- Assists in the review and assessment of developments and provides comments for environmental licensing,
- Participates in the development and implementation of national strategies, and
- Assists in the delivery of other departmental programs.

Table AQ.1
Air Quality Activities

Activity	Number
National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) – number of urban stations operated	2
Monitoring industries with air emissions – number of stations operated	2[1]
Participation in regional/national air issues and strategies	6
Support to major Department activities	5
The Environment Act and The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act Proposals/Licenses: Reviewed Comments provided	 44 10
Review of air dispersion modelling reports/source sampling reports	3
Participation in standard development/implementation (Canada-wide Standards)	4
Requests for detailed technical air quality information (data, criteria, technical information, etc.) and presentations	16

[1] one site operated with assistance from Regional Operations.

Key Results Achieved

- Outdoor air quality monitoring successfully continued at the established provincial sites; the air quality monitoring activities of others as required under regulation were audited and recommendations, when required, were made for improvements.
- As per the existing federal/provincial Memorandum of Understanding for operation of NAPS, a number of air quality analyzers were received and positioned to serve as backups to ensure uninterrupted operation with minimum downtime, should lengthy repairs to equipment be required.
- Support for the release of near real-time air quality information continued (air quality index information for downtown Winnipeg, supply of Manitoba data for the AIRNow web site, etc.).
- The technical report assessing air quality data collected from the special air quality study in the Transcona area of Winnipeg was completed and publicly released. The report indicated Transcona air quality was generally good and similar to other areas in Winnipeg.

- Technical and policy support was provided to a number of Departmental activities including: input to the federal regulatory framework on air emissions; management of releases from base metal smelters in Manitoba, scientific and related monitoring activities to assess eco-system vulnerability to acidic deposition, review of substantial air quality matters related to Environment Act proposals for Licencing.
- Canada-Wide Standards (CWS): participation continued in the development and implementation of the CWS for mercury release from coal-fired electricity generation; provincial implementation of national standards for particulate matter, ozone, dioxins/furans and mercury continued.
- Participation continued on the Department's core Emergency Response Team, once every sixth week or as may be required, to assist in response to releases or potential releases, of contaminants that may detrimentally affect the environment or public health.

Table AQ.2
12.4(d) Air Quality Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	267.0	4.00	274.7	(7.7)	
Other Expenditures	60.9		69.3	(8.4)	
Total 12.4(d)	**327.9**	**4.00**	**344.0**	**(16.1)**	

Forestry

Forestry Branch plans, manages and allocates forest resources for the long-term social, economic and environmental benefit of Manitobans. Crown forests are managed sustainably for all users, and harvest and renewal activities are implemented in a manner that conserves ecosystem diversity. The branch encourages diversification and growth of the forest industry along with the efficient utilization of Manitoba's forest resources.

To limit widespread tree mortality and timber losses, levels of protection are provided commensurate with social, economic and environmental values at risk. The branch advises and assists the public and industry with forest health issues on Crown land, private woodlots and urban forests.

Forestry Branch oversees activity effectiveness to meet goals, reviews Forest Management Plans and guides and informs regional managers and enforcement personnel on forestry policies and procedures.

Administration

Branch administration establishes guidelines and ensures conformity to department policies and government goals. It provides administrative support and personnel duties, prepares annual estimates, ensures expenditures conform to estimates and department policy, controls funds, monitors efficiency and effectiveness of expenditures and co-ordinates development of the annual work plan.

2006/07 Key Results Achieved

- The Manitoba Model Forest was supported by in-kind contributions, including two representatives who sit as directors. The department continued to participate in the Canadian Forest Service's First Nations Forestry Program. A team comprised of First Nation's organisations, industry and government (federal and provincial) delivers this program wnich is funded by the federal government.
- The branch managed and administered a grant of $200.0 to the Manitoba Forestry Association's woodlot program, which is provided through the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund. This program includes the development of woodlot management plans and technology transfer in the south-eastern, Interlake and western portions of the province.
- The Branch also provided a grant of $23.4 and staff involvement to support educational programs delivered by the Manitoba Forestry Association, including an environmental education competition, Envirothon.

Table FO.1
12.4(e)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	331.0	6.50	328.1	2.9	
Other Expenditures	338.0		329.1	8.9	
Grant Assistance	23.4		23.4	0.0	
Total 12.4(e)1	**692.4**	**6.50**	**680.6**	**11.8**	

Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis

Objectives

- Develop and maintain the provincial forest inventory database which ensures the sustainable development and protection of Manitoba's forest resources.

- Establish and maintain a nationally based series of long-term ecosystem monitoring plots (satellite plots and field plots) across Canada to measure provincial, national and international reporting requirements related to forest sustainability and climate change.

- Accurately predict the growth, yield and quality of Manitoba's forests in order to determine sustainable harvest levels under various forest management practices.

- Determine a reliable, informative and sustainable timber supply that reflects current resource management strategies.

- Maintain a level of expertise to ensure the section is aware of the best knowledge and scientific techniques available.

The Forest Inventory Program is responsible for creating a current, comprehensive, accurate and ecologically-based database for Manitoba's forests.

Key areas of responsibility include:

- establishing standards for data collection by the private sector
- monitoring data collection processes
- aerial photography acquisition, photo-interpretation and database maintenance (geographic information system)
- developing and maintaining a database and digital geographic information system for the distribution of digital and hard copy forest inventory information to industry and the public and for monitoring and reporting on sustainability

The Forest Productivity Program is responsible for the development, implementation and management of databases, statistical techniques and tools, including models for consistently predicting growth, decay, yield and quality of Manitoba's forests. The program provides the base information to assist in timber supply sustained yield projections, provincial forest management plans and silviculture activities.

Key areas of responsibility include:

- establishing and maintaining permanent sample plots to measure growth rates and the long-term response to silvicultural treatments
- evaluating and quantifying the productivity of forests and forest lands
- quantifying the risks and losses in forest stands due to decay
- developing, evaluating and recommending forest growth projection systems that can simulate the growth, yield and quality of important tree species in Manitoba's forests
- developing co-operative systems of data collection, analysis and transfer with industry and other jurisdictions and the development of related standards

The Resource Analysis Program is responsible for managing a forest resources information base and for establishing sustainable Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) levels.

Key areas of responsibility include:

- leading the Forestry Branch in producing a timely, reliable informative timber supply analysis that reflects current integrated resource management strategies
- developing methods and models for timber supply analysis
- establishing provincial AAC levels
- evaluating and validating wood supply analysis prepared by industry

2006/07 Key Results Achieved

- A new forest inventory was completed in Forest Management Unit (FMU) 11, and the photo-interpretation of FMU 12 was tendered out and will be completed in 2007/08.

- Twenty-one additional stem analysis plots were established. This data will be compiled with the existing stem analysis database and will be used to update existing ecologically-based stem taper equations for the province.

- Preliminary work started on the development of provincial site index equations for tree species of commercial importance that will assist in the application of yield curves in wood supply analysis programs.

- The growth and yield program has participated in meetings with the silviculture program in efforts to re-design forest renewal surveys to ensure compatibility with the wood supply analysis process.

- The re-measurement of Permanent Sample Plots (PSP) were completed as scheduled, and the data will be used in the development of growth and yield models.

- There have been discussions with Manitoba forestry industry in efforts to establish a co-operative PSP program.

- Eighty-four volume sampling plots were established in FMU 11. Volume sampling within the Saskatchewan River forest section has been completed with an additional 540 plots established in 2006. Preliminary yield curves have been developed to account for industrial timber utilization standards and will be used in future wood supply analyses. The various utilization standards were explored to assess the impact of different management scenarios on future wood supply within the Saskatchewan River forest.

- The province and the federal government negotiated and signed a Memorandum of Understanding and work plan to complete the establishment phase of the National Forest Inventory (NFI) project in Manitoba.

- Aerial photography was acquired and plot interpretation was completed for the long-term ecosystem monitoring plots established across Manitoba (satellite, photo and randomly located ground plots). The establishment phase of this project, and all the data collection associated with it, has been completed. Phase two, the re-measurement component, is anticipated to begin in 2007/08.

- Forest fires that occurred in 2005 were digitized and the FRI database was updated accordingly. An annual operations update program was initiated to capture imagery of harvest operations for selected forest sections.

- A wood supply analysis and technical report were completed for FML#1 addressing new protected areas and caribou habitat maintenance requirements. Technical advisory committees were formed to guide the wood supply analysis for the Saskatchewan River and Pineland Forest Sections and Forest Management Unit 30. A consultant was hired to initiate the analysis work for the Pineland Forest Section. An analysis was conducted to evaluate the effect of FMU amalgamation on the established AAC in the Highrock Forest Section.

- A pilot project was initiated to determine the usefulness of high quality, variable high resolution imagery for forestry related applications as related to the cost of acquisition. A least cost vendor was identified to provide 10 cm, 20 cm, 30 cm, 45 cm and 65 cm resolution digital images. Approximately 190 mosaics were obtained, reviewed and several potential uses were identified;
  - harvest and burn updates
  - detection of diseases, such as dwarf mistletoe and root disease

- spray block layout for vegetation and budworm management
- free to grow surveys, especially in remote locations
- Dutch elm disease cost sharing communities
- defoliation detection

Table FO.2
12.4(e)2 Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	989.7	16.00	1,055.5	(65.8)	1.
Other Expenditures	626.7		753.0	(126.3)	
Total 12.4(e)2	**1,616.4**	**16.00**	**1,808.5**	**(192.1)**	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to vacant departmental staff positions.

Forest Health and Renewal

The section protects forests from damage by insects, disease and other factors, assists wildfire management and ensures all harvested Crown forest lands are renewed to maintain ecosystem integrity and biodiversity. The public and industry receive information and assistance on forest health and renewal issues from the Forest Health and Renewal (FHR) section.

Surveys, efficacy tests and research on significant insects and diseases are conducted. Significant pests/diseases include spruce budworm, Dutch elm disease, jack pine budworm, elm bark beetles, dwarf mistletoe, western gall rust, Armillaria root rot, spruce beetle, eastern larch beetle and pine root collar weevil. Forest health data is collected in Regeneration, Free to Grow (FTG) and Pre-harvest surveys, to develop management prescriptions, provide feedback to resource managers and track substantially infected stands.

The Dutch elm disease (DED) management program seeks to reduce the impact of DED on urban elm populations by keeping the annual elm tree mortality to two per cent or less. The program manages DED in 37 communities in Manitoba and conducts surveys in a large buffer zone area surrounding the city of Winnipeg. The program is managed through annually renewed cost share agreements between the province and participating communities. Under these agreements, the municipality and the province are each responsible for the implementation of a specific set of DED control measures. Major participating urban centres are Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Morden, Winkler, Dauphin, Steinbach, Selkirk and Swan River.

The Forest Renewal Program is administered and co-ordinated by FHR, which maintains the pool of site-preparation equipment and co-ordinates its use with Regional Operations., who delivers the program. Renewal technology transfer to regional staff is provided through field trials, workshops and training that promotes innovation. Regional renewal programs are also supported through administration and co-ordination of silviculture contracts and assisting in the planning and delivery of vegetation management projects. The Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee (MbSTC), comprised of government and industry foresters and technicians, encourages the exchange ideas and solutions and provides technology transfer.

The objectives of the Tree Improvement Program are to provide a genetically improved seed source for reforestation and to ensure the conservation of the forest genetic resource. The program consists of seven government/industry co-operatives, including Tolko Manitoba, LP Canada and Tembec and six provincial programs. Tree Improvement staff manage and provide technical direction for all programs. All work involved in the maintenance and assessment of family tests and the management of seed orchards is completed by tree improvement staff, and a portion of the costs are billed to the forest companies through the Tree Improvement Trust Account.

2006/07 Annual Report Key Results Achieved

- Spruce budworm infested about 47,168 hectares (excluding Riding Mountain for which is there is no available data) in 2006. Emergency funding was provided for the aerial application of the biosynthetic insecticide, Mimic (tebufenozide), on 14,770 hectares in the Northwest Region, 1,900 hectares in the Eastern Region and 980 hectares in Spruce Woods Provincial Forest. The aerial application resulted in good budworm population suppression and foliage protection.

- Measurement of jack pine decay was completed to develop cull factors for growth and yield models in Forest Management Unit 31.

- Fire Program was assisted by identifying values at risk, reviewing Forest Management Licensees' annual fire control plans, digitizing all fires into the branch's Geographic Information System and participating in the Canadian Forest Service's National Fire Database mapping program.

- There were 9,464 elms marked for removal in the cost-share communities and the Winnipeg buffer zone in 2006. High levels of DED persist along rivers, especially the Red, Assiniboine, Boyne (near Carman) and Souris Rivers. As of March 31, 2007, 8,889 elms were removed from 37 cost-share communities and nineteen urban-buffer-zone municipalities. The program expects to complete removals by the end of spring.

- In late August of 2006, the DED program implemented a basal pesticide application program in the RM of Ritchot along the Red River within the Winnipeg buffer-zone. A total of 2,273 elm trees were treated on mostly private properties. Treatments are conducted in close co-ordination with the City of Winnipeg, which applied treatments to similar high density DED areas within the city boundaries. It is expected that regular basal treatments of these areas will, over time, result in a significant reduction in the bark beetle populations that spread DED, which should decrease the spread of DED into the city of Winnipeg.

- In the summer of 2005, the University of Manitoba began work on a Rapid Removal DED research project. The objectives of the project are to find an environmentally friendlier replacement for the pesticide currently used to control the elm bark beetle and to investigate the potential benefits to DED management of the early removal of diseased elm trees. This project is a collaboration between the City of Winnipeg, the Coalition to Save the Elms, Manitoba Conservation and the University of Manitoba, which is leading the project.

- A new *Forest Health Protection Act* was drafted in 2006. The purpose of the new legislation is to protect Manitoba's urban and rural forests from all invasive pests by giving the province the ability to restrict the importation and movement of a forest threat and the ability to control or eradicate an infestation if one occurs. *The Forest Health Protection* Act will repeal *The Dutch Elm Disease Act* currently in existence. It is expected that the new legislation will be enacted in 2007/2008.

- The Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee (MbSTC), comprised of government and industry foresters and technicians, continued its work of exchanging ideas and solutions and providing technology transfer. Terms of Reference have been prepared and adopted by the committee. Subcommittees were formed to review hardwood renewal standards and Free-To-Grow standards. Work continues in this area.

- Tolko Manitoba and Louisiana-Pacific hired contract surveyors for regeneration surveys and staff to check the survey results. The FHR Section tested branch, contract and company surveyors. Tolko and Louisiana-Pacific both contracted out their surveys to the same company. The contractor's 12 surveyors were trained and certified, along with the department's 4 surveyors. All obtained Regeneration Surveyor Licenses. An audit of Tolko and Louisiana-Pacific surveys and check surveys was successful. Louisiana-Pacific was issued a Certificate of Reforestation but Tolko failed to submit its regeneration surveys for certification. The successful re-certification program was continued for

surveyors who were licensed the preceding year. Tembec did not perform any regeneration surveys in 2006.

- Regeneration surveys to determine the success of forest renewal were performed on 3,633 hectares. The Branch surveyed 2,123 hectares, while licensed regeneration surveyors from Louisiana-Pacific surveyed 1,510 hectares. No survey results have been reported by Tolko.

- The branch performed Free-to-Grow (FTG) surveys on softwood-dominated forest stands to determine if they are developing appropriately (i.e. surpassing competing tree species in height within 15-20 years of age). Two techniques were used, full and extensive. Full-survey technique was used on 2,456 hectares, and extensive technique was used on 319 hectares. Branch staff trained surveyors from Tembec and Tolko's contractor to perform FTG surveys. Tembec FTG surveyed 1,939. Tolko failed to report on survey results. Louisiana-Pacific is scheduled to commence FTG surveys in 2008.

- The department and industry carried out forest renewal treatments on 9,613 hectares, including re-treatments. Most of the area was planted with approximately 13.4 million trees that were delivered through tendered contracts with the exception of some department planting in the Eastern Region and a non-tendered contract to a First Nation company. Scarification was used to promote natural regeneration on some areas.

- Of the estimated 13,648 hectares of softwoods harvested in 2005-2006, 10 per cent (1,334 ha) were treated for reforestation in 2006-2007. The rest was left to regenerate naturally or will be planted or otherwise treated in the future. Increased harvest of poplar (about 33 per cent of harvested area over the past five years) increased the area left to regenerate naturally, as poplar regenerates readily from root suckering. About 486 hectares of harvested area that had not restocked sufficiently were re-treated by re-planting.

- There are currently 14 seed orchards (62.9 hectares - over 175,000 trees) and 27 family tests (83.3 hectares – over 191,000 trees) across the province. Improved jack pine seed is available for the Southeast, Interlake and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved white spruce seed is available for the Mountain and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved black spruce seed is available for the Lake Winnipeg East, Saskatchewan River, Nelson River, Interlake and Southeast breeding zones. In 2007, approximately 55 per cent of all seedlings planted across the province originated from genetically improved seed. Jack pine and black spruce programs in the Mountain Breeding Zone and a black spruce program in the Highrock Breeding Zone will provide genetically improved seed in the future.

- Ten-year measurements of over 30, 000 trees were completed on the three black spruce family tests and 20 replications of the orchard in the Highrock Breeding Zone. The analysis of these measurements was contracted to a forest geneticist and the ranking of families based on height breeding values will be used to thin the Simonhouse Seed Orchard to improve genetic gain. The analysis of the 15-year family test measurements in the Saskatchewan River Black Spruce Breeding Zone was completed by a forest geneticist, and Prospector Seed Orchard was thinned based on the results. All trees from the bottom 50 per cent families were removed from the orchard, leaving 6,839 trees of which 61 per cent are from the top 25 per cent families. Brightstone Seed Orchard in the Lake Winnipeg East Black Spruce Breeding Zone was thinned based on the 15-year measurement analysis, removing all bottom 25 per cent families plus other select trees. There are 4,297 trees left in the orchard of which 47 per cent are from the top 25 per cent families.

- Manitoba is co-operating with the Canadian Forest Service in the Forest 2020 Plantation Demonstration and Assessment initiative (Climate Action Plan), with Manitoba being the delivery agency for the maintenance of trials near Winnipeg, Stead, Libau and St. Anne. Manitoba also assisted the Canadian Forest Service with the establishment of short-rotation willow and hybrid poplar plantations as part of the Canadian Biomass Innovation Network.

Table FO.3
Forest Renewal Activities

	Manitoba Conservation	Tembec/ Pine Falls	Tolko Manitoba	Louisiana-Pacific	Total
Area Treated (hectares)	1,995	913	7,353	1,173	11,434
Area Retreated (hectares)	6	36	0	0	42
Total Treated Areas	2,001	949	7,353	1,173	11,476
Total Trees Planted (1000s)	3,352	1,170	7,900	1,935	14,357
Total Area Site Prepared for Renewal Treatment (hectares)	1,677	424	831	118	3050
Total Area Tended (hectares)	10	175	1,700	0	1,885
General cones collections Seed orchard co-op collections	5.8 26.9	0.0	52.5 30.9	4.1	58.3 hl 61.9 hl

Table FO.4
12.4(e)3 Forest Health and Renewal

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,674.9	19.56	1,766.9	908.0	1.
Other Expenditures	3,203.3		4,118.2	(914.9)	
Less: Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(1,236.1)		(1,324.5)	88.4	
Total 12.4(e)3	**4,642.1**	**19.56**	**4,560.6**	**81.5**	

1. Over-expenditure is due to costs that were originally budgeted as operating expenditures subsequently determined to be salaries and employee benefit costs.

Forest Management and Development

The section provides direction to regional forestry staff and forestry companies in Manitoba with the vision of sustainably managing Manitoba's forest resource in the best interest of the forest and the people of Manitoba.

Timber Administration
- administer timber management effectively and efficiently
- provide cutting authority, monitor harvest volumes and collect timber sale revenue

Forest Management Planning and Forest Practices
- ensure forest management planning is comprehensive and appropriate
- promote environmentally sustainable and economical forestry practices

Wood Measurement
- ensure that all Crown timber harvested in Manitoba is accurately measured and tracked
- provide training, licensing and monitoring of industry wood measurement programs

Legislation and Policy

- ensure that forestry activities are properly authorized

Science and Technology

- promote improved science in forestry activities

2006/07 Key Results Achieved

- In 2006/07, this section issued and administered, tracked and monitored:
  - 173 Timber Sales
  - 3,017 Timber Permits
  - 206 Operating Permits
  - 71,000 Load Slips
  - 39 Sawmill Licences
  - 42 Timber Dealers Licences

- In total 2,400,952 m3 of crown timber was harvested in Manitoba in 2006/07.

- Total revenue received from timber dues, forest renewal charges, forest protection charges and other fees/charges was $8,278,613.

- A new Timber Pricing System was developed and initial consultation with forest industry took place. Further work and consultation on the system is planned for 2007/08, with implementation planned for April 1, 2008.

- In 2006, there was consultation with industry on the development of a new timber administration system. New tracking procedures were implemented, including updated load slips and annual scaling plans. Starting April 1, 2007, all operators will be required to submit a scaling plan indicating how the timber is being measured and where it is being delivered.

- Work continued with the Government of Ontario to acquire and use their computerized Timber Resources Evaluation System (TREES). Implementation is planned for April 1, 2008.

- Louisiana Pacific (LP) submitted a draft of their 20 year Forest Management Plan (FMP) for review. An evaluation of the modelling used in the FMP was started by the Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis Section of the Forestry Branch in 2006, and will be completed in 2007. The FMP has been made available to other government departments for review and to the public through LP's website. Tembec submitted an Annual Operating Plan to the Forestry Branch and Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch in lieu of a current FMP. A FMP is due in 2008. Bison has sent a draft Terms of Reference for their upcoming FMP. Bison is utilizing the latest draft of the Twenty Year Forest Management Guidebook to write their FMP.

- Consultation with First Nation and Aboriginal communities with respect to Louisiana Pacific Ltd.'s proposed FMP is ongoing. The Forestry Branch has led this process on behalf of the Government of Manitoba since 2005.

- The Forest Practices Committee, comprised of representatives from other branches and departments of the Manitoba Government and forest industry, continued to develop guidelines for forestry practices. A Riparian Workshop was organized by the Sustainable Forest Management Network in conjunction with the Manitoba Forest Practices Committee at the Holiday Inn West in Winnipeg, Manitoba. One hundred and forty participants attended the two-day workshop, with 80 per cent from Manitoba. Speakers from across Canada presented their papers.

- The Brush and Debris Disposal and Forest Roads guidebooks were completed and published in spring 2005. These guidebooks can be found on the Government of Manitoba web site under the forestry section. A draft of the Forest Management Guidelines for Riparian Management Guidebook and departmental reviews were completed and were sent for peer review in January 2007 across Canada and the United States. Comments received will be integrated and the final draft and will be made available for public review on the government's web site in 2007. Forest Management Guidelines for Terrestrial Buffers, the Forest Health Guidebook and the Landscape Design Guidebook are currently being developed.

- A sub-committee of the Forest Practices Committee was organized to develop a 20-year Forest Management Guidebook. The sub-committee is made up of members from forest industry and provincial government staff.

- In 2006, the provincial scaler trained regional staff to measure cull, defect and undersized timber at major mills in Manitoba. Factors for these three elements will be used in the new Timber Pricing Model and electronic reporting system. The check scaling program, previously carried out by Forestry Branch headquarters staff, was cancelled and will be replaced with checks performed by regional staff.

- One 2-day Scalers Licence Course was held in Swan River in 2006. Eight students from Manitoba Conservation and the forest industry successfully completed the course and received Manitoba Scalers Licences. In 2005/06, Manitoba Conservation instituted a new requirement whereby Manitoba licenced scalers are required to complete a mandatory Licence Refresher Course every 5 years. To enable scalers to meet this new requirement, three one-day refresher courses were held in Swan River (2) and Pine Falls (1). A total of 17 candidates successfully completed the refresher courses.

- With the support of the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, the Manitoba Forestry Association's Woodlot Program has continued servicing its traditional client base and has expanded its program to also include a satellite office with an Extension Officer in Swan River. Benefits to landowners in this area include the provision of technical services for woodlot management planning, additional assistance through technical and operational return visits and an education program in the form of field days, seminars, workshops and bus tours.

- In 2006, the branch initiated changes to the Forest Act and Regulations. Proposed amendments include several changes to improve the government's ability to track timber harvesting and movement, increase enforcement abilities and current penalties, deter theft and ensure compliance. It is anticipated that these changes to the act will be completed in 2007/08. Major regulation changes will follow.

- A new *Forest Health Protection Act* was also drafted in 2006. The purpose of the new legislation is to protect Manitoba's urban and rural forests from all invasive pests by providing the crown the ability to restrict the importation and movement of a forest threat and the ability to control or eradicate an infestation if one occurs. The *Forest Health Protection Act* will repeal *The Dutch Elm Disease Act* that currently exists. It is expected that the new legislation will be enacted in 2007/2008.

- An Agreement between Canada and the United States Amending the Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA 2006) was signed on September 12.

- The Forestry Branch participated in federal-provincial and industry discussions regarding the development of the Softwood Lumber Agreement (SWLA). As Manitoba's representative on the Federal and Provincial Heads of Delegations Committee, the section provided input for Canada's responses to U.S. inquiries. The SWLA was signed by Canada and the United States on September 12, 2006. Following the agreement, the branch will provide any necessary notification to Canada and the U.S. as outlined in the agreement.

Table FO.5

12.4(e)4 Forest Management and Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	573.6	10.00	579.1	(5.5)	
Other Expenditures	280.9		976.8	(695.9)	1.
Total 12.4(e)4	**854.5**	**10.00**	**1,555.9**	**(701.4)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to deferral of completion of the Forest Stumpage System and First Nation consultations on Louisiana Pacific's Long Term Management Plan to 2007/08.

Sustainable Forestry Unit

The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) was established in 2003, to promote economic development through the forest industry. At the strategic level, the SFU reports directly to a four-person management committee comprised of the Secretary to the Community and Economic Development Committee of Cabinet, the Deputy Minister of Conservation, the Deputy Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines and the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. This reporting structure promotes a sustainable development approach to Manitoba's forests, with a priority focus on economic diversification, Aboriginal participation and co-ordination between departments.

The Sustainable Forestry Unit works closely with the other sections within Forestry Branch to ensure co-ordination on issues, such as wood supply, fibre quality, forest management, wood tenure, etc. The Unit is working to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fibre usage and environmentally responsible forest management practices.

As a cross-departmental unit, the SFU is charged with developing a sustainable and diversified strategy for Manitoba's forests by focusing on the following areas:

1. encouraging Aboriginal forestry developments, including (a) resource co-management, (b) business ownership and (c) economic development (training, employment, etc.)
2. increasing value-added processing in the forest sector (including timber and non-timber forest products)
3. fostering interaction between primary and secondary industry

2006/07 Key Results Achieved

- Forintek Canada Corp., a not for profit wood products research organization, established a $1,037,200 three-year program in Manitoba on April 1, 2004, through a federal-provincial agreement which runs until December 31, 2007. Forintek continued to have a secondary forest products industry advisor in Winnipeg and a primary industry advisor in The Pas.

- In 2006/07, the SFU contracted the Forest Engineering Institute of Canada (FERIC) to study Manitoba Forestry Industry Transportation, specifically regarding competitiveness of the industry and recommendations for improvement.

- The SFU continued to chair a Federal-Provincial First Nations Forestry Working Group, which is comprised of provincial and federal representatives from departments responsible for economic

development, forestry, First Nations and training. The working group provides a communication link between the two levels of government and provides opportunities for federal and provincial governments to jointly address common interests and concerns.

- In 2006/07, Conservation continued working with the First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership (FNFLP) toward a major hardwood products development in southern Manitoba. The SFU assisted FNFLP in several areas throughout the year, including meeting with First Nations communities.

- SFU has begun a Crown consultation process regarding the proposed Southern Hardwood Development Project and the potential effects the development may have on Treaty and Aboriginal rights. A Crown consultation steering committee has been created, involving representatives from Forestry Branch, other Conservation branches and regions and Justice. SFU staff have also been assisting in the Crown consultation process regarding the renewal of the Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd Long-Term Forest Management Plan.

- The SFU continued to work with communities in various parts of the province that were interested in developing forestry based businesses, such as saw mills or log home building establishments. Much of the work focused on providing business contacts and advice.

Table FO.6
12.4(e)5 Sustainable Forestry Unit

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	250.1	4.00	282.3	(32.2)	
Other Expenditures	279.7		218.0	61.7	
Total 12.4(e)5	**529.8**	**4.00**	**500.3**	**29.5**	

Forest Regeneration Stock

All stock is grown at Pineland Forest Nursery (Tolko and Louisiana-Pacific purchase seedlings independently). This appropriation is also used for seed collection, extraction, storage, transportation of seedlings to the field and a stock identification system. It is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in stock requirements for 2007/08, with the increased renewal responsibilities as a result of timber auction sales and First Nations initiatives.

2006/07 Key Results Achieved

- Manitoba Conservation purchased 3.39 million seedlings for planting in 2005/06, and 2.93 million seedlings were grown for planting in 2006/07. Another 1.17 million seedlings were purchased for planting by Tembec in 2005/06, and 1.17 million seedlings were grown for planting in 2006/07.

Table FO.7
12.4(e)6 Forest Regeneration Stock

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	1,237.9		1,355.3	(117.4)	1.
Total 12.4(e)6	**1,237.9**		**1,355.3**	**(117.4)**	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to decline in seedling requests as a result of unfavourable winter conditions.

Habitat Enhancement Fund

The Fund provided a grant to Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation in support of the co-operative Critical Wildlife Habitat Program. The grant funds stewardship initiatives targeted at and habitat conservation activities, including mixed-grass prairie inventories, mixed-grass prairie grazing management, other land-management activities on program lands, (including native-prairie management), and extension initiatives. It is used to support the provincial share required for Federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk allocations for Manitoba projects.

Table HE.1
12.4(f) Habitat Enhancement Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	50.0		50.0	0.0	
Total 12.4(f)	**50.0**		**50.0**	**0.0**	

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

The Branch manages wildlife resources to conserve biological diversity, including species and ecosystems within the context of the principles of sustainable development. The Branch protects and enhances habitat on Crown and private lands and monitors the effects of industrial emissions and land use on ecosystems. Resources are allocated to maximize long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. The Branch co-operates with a wide range of clients and groups to promote conservation and to realize optimum benefits from interaction with wildlife. The Branch represents wildlife interests in departmental, provincial, national, and international initiatives for biodiversity, species at risk, migratory wildlife, game and fur species, problem wildlife, protected spaces, conservation, sustainable development, and federal-provincial harmonization. The Branch ensures that wildlife programs reflect the cultural, subsistence, social, and economic values of Manitobans, consistent with policy, procedure and legislation.

The following key activities were carried out in 2006/07.

Administration

- Grants were made to the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (research on wildlife and resource management), the Manitoba Trappers Association (trapper education and involvement in fur management), the Fur Institute of Canada (humane trap development and public information), the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Critical Wildlife Habitat Program), Wildlife Habitat Canada (Annual contribution toward the operation of the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee) and the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

- The branch participates in various local, national, and international wildlife initiatives: Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Arctic Goose Joint Venture, Canadian Polar Bear Administrative Committee, Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre, Mississippi Flyway Council, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, Wildlife Habitat Canada and Prairie Habitat Joint Venture.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch Web site

- The Branch web site (www.manitoba.ca /conservation/wildlife) continues to provide Manitobans with wildlife and habitat-related information and resources. Through the Web, the branch is able to provide an overview of the mandate of the branch, contact information, and information on current issues. The web site continues to be an important tool in providing additional information to the public. Pertinent and current issues are profiled on the home page and all branch programs are available through the navigation bar.

- Big game hunting statistics were updated to reflect the latest year's hunting figures. This section of the Web site functions as a resource for those interested in big game population trends and harvest statistics in various areas of the province.

- People wishing to visit the Narcisse snake dens during peak emergence (spring) and return periods (fall) continue to use the web site as a resource. Status reports on snake numbers and den activity are updated every few days during the peak periods, giving prospective visitors an idea of what they will see and when is the best time to plan a trip to the dens.

- The problem wildlife section of the Web site is expanding to include wildlife encountered in urban areas. This includes statistics on wildlife-vehicle collisions, tips on how to avoid collisions and urban and rural areas identified as "hot spots" for these types of collisions.

- Guide licensing information and application forms for hunting were added to the Web site this year, reflecting the fact that the hunting guide licensing program is now administered by the Branch.

- An ecosystem monitoring section was added to the site, with information regarding sustainability and diversity of Manitoba's terrestrial ecosystems, and how they are maintained through environmental monitoring. A current list of ecosystem monitoring publications is also available here.

- Information for volunteers was made available on the Web site for those wishing to assist with nocturnal owl surveys or the piping plover monitoring program. Program updates and reports were also posted as results became available.

- The boreal woodland caribou strategy is now available on this Web site.

- New dropdown menus were included on the home page to provide quick links for wildlife-related issues that may be considered urgent or critical.

General Extension

- During 2006/07, displays were staffed at Rural Forum, Manitoba Grazing School, Manitoba Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, The Organic Producers Association Meeting, Manitoba Cattle Producers Association Annual General Meeting and the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair.

1. Staff also attended:
   - Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) annual meeting with a poster display on the Mixed-grass Inventory Project.
   - Public Engagement Training Workshop focusing on Species at Risk.
   - Engaging Rural Clients Workshop.
   - Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference – this conference is scheduled to be held in Manitoba in 2010.

- Staff continued to contribute to the Manitoba Envirothon by preparing test questions and assisting with the field day and oral competition components. Envirothon is an annual Olympic-style academic and environmental program for high school students (Grades 9-12). The students are tested in four discipline areas (aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife) and an annual theme (last year's: Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate). The event was held at the International Peace Gardens and 30 Manitoba school teams participated. The Northwest Soil Management Association Team from Swan River won the event and, in July 2006, represented Manitoba at the International Canon Envirothon in Winnipeg.

- Winnipeg played host to the 2006 International Canon Envirothon in late July 2006. The University of Manitoba was the host site, with the field test being held at Birds Hill Provincial Park. Staff continued to participate by presenting workshops for the students and compiling and marking the field test questions for the event.

National Wildlife Week

- National Wildlife Week was celebrated during April 9-15, 2006. This event was co-ordinated with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). The theme selected for 2006 was "Watersheds...more than just water."

Legislation

- One Order-in-Council regulation under *The Wildlife Act* was registered to create two new Wildlife Management Areas.

- Eight amending regulations were registered to adjust five ministerial regulations under *The Wildlife Act.* The amendments were required to facilitate hunting and trapping seasons, and to provide protection to two newly designated wildlife management areas.

- Five ministerial were replaced with the registration of one new ministerial regulation under *The Wildlife Act* to provide for the administration of possession, transportation and commercial use of wild animals.

Wildlife Permits

The Branch administers permits and licences required under ***The Wildlife Act*** and ***The Endangered Species Act***. Subject to federal guidelines, CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) Export Permits required under the ***Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act*** are also issued.

Table WI.1
Wildlife Permits Issued, 2006

Provincial Permits	
Amphibian and Reptiles	1
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (educational)	1
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (personal)	88
Applications Denied (dead wild animal)	6
Disabled Hunter Permit (permanent)	30
Disabled Hunter Permit (discharge firearm)	5
Disabled Hunter Permit (revoked)	0
Applications Denied (disabled hunter)	21
Dog Trainer's Licence (non-resident)	2
Dog Training Club Licence	3
Exotic Animal Import Permit	0
Field Trial Permit	1
Live Exotic Animal Possession Permit	1
Live Wild Animal Possession Permit	12
Power Boat in Marsh Permit	1
Serve Meat of Wild Animal Permit	2
Species At Risk Permit	3
Use Vehicle Off Designated Route Permit	1
Wild Animal Capture Permit	3
Wild Animal Export Permit	1475
Wild Animal Import Permit	13
Wild Animal Kill Permit	2
Wild Animal Part Dealer Permit	16
Wildlife Farm License	2
Wildlife Scientific Permit	14
Game Bird Farm License	10
Game Bird Shooting Preserve License	2

Table WI.1

Wildlife Permits Issued, 2006

Provincial Permits	
Taxidermist License	63
Tanner's License	5
Total (Provincial Permits):	**1782**
Federal Permits	
CITES Export Permit	1185
Total (Federal Permits):	**1181**

Table WI.2

12.4(g)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	453.2	9.00	491.8	(38.6)	
Other Expenditures	322.8		375.0	(52.2)	
Grant Assistance	209.0		211.0	(2.0)	
Total 12.4(g)1	**985.0**	**9.00**	**1,077.8**	**(92.8)**	

Game and Fur

Hunting Opportunities

Hunting is an important part of Manitoba's rich natural heritage. Manitoba Conservation is committed to: providing hunting opportunities for all Manitobans; ensuring that hunting has a positive future in the province; and exploring new and expanded hunting opportunities for Manitoba hunters.

Conservation is the first priority of wildlife management. However, when additional hunting opportunities are sustainable, and stakeholder consultation is supportive, seasons may be introduced as part of the department's annual process of reviewing hunting regulations.

The following changes to the hunting program were introduced in 2006/07.

- The Second Deer Licence was introduced in GHAs 13A, 18 to 18C, and 19 to 19B in western Manitoba. These GHAs supported healthy deer populations and provided additional hunting opportunities.
- In GHAs 23 and 23A around Riding Mountain National Park, successful applicants in the rifle elk draws were provided with the opportunity to purchase a Conservation Moose Licence Package for a harvest of one moose.
- The archery and rifle draw seasons for moose in the southwest were expanded to include GHA 27. This helped to disperse hunters and provided more hunting opportunity.
- In consultation with First Nations and other stakeholders, a fall rifle moose season was reintroduced in GHA 8.
- Daily bag limits for Canada geese were increased to five per day in GHAs 25 and 25A and four per day in GHA 25B.

- In 2006/07, the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch produced and distributed 120,000 hunting guides and 7,000 designated route maps.

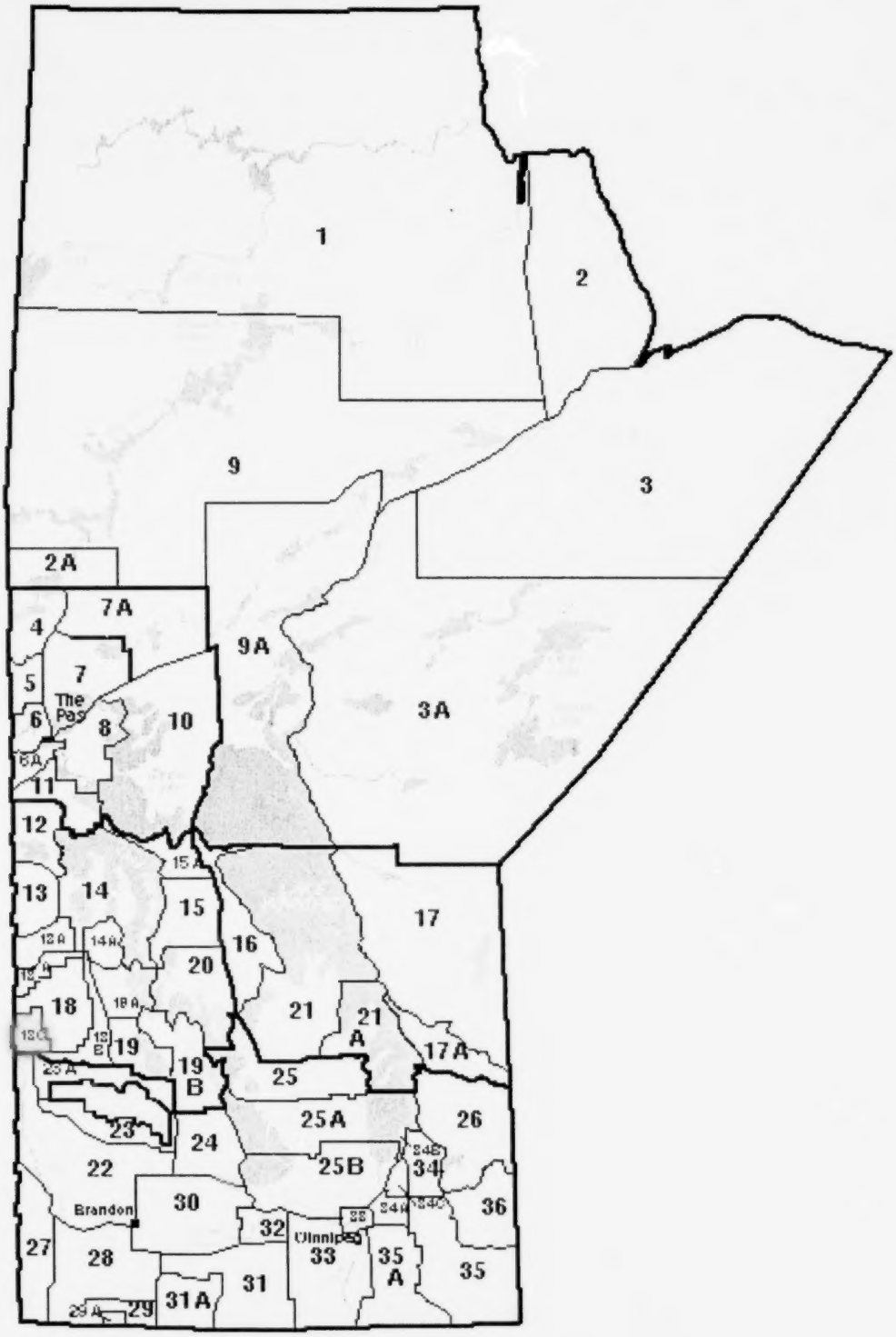
Waterfowl Management

- Manitoba Conservation continues to develop and deliver provincial wildlife management programs that protect the integrity of the resource and associated habitats while, at the same time, provides for a variety of uses by the public. Management of Manitoba's waterfowl and wetland resources has been accomplished through direct delivery of the Branch's programs, as well as partnerships involving non-government wildlife organizations, municipalities, conservation groups, provincial and federal government departments, and interested individuals.
- Managed habitats such as wildlife management areas (WMA), provincial parks and natural wetlands are vital to providing places for the public to view and interact with wildlife. Manitoba Conservation has recognized the benefits of preserving and enhancing these habitats, and through direct management, provides safe and accessible areas for public use. WMAs, such as Oak Hammock WMA, attract large numbers of ducks and geese and receive thousands of visitors each year.
- The demand for opportunities to interact with wildlife includes consumptive uses such as subsistence use and licensed hunting. Programs directed at recruiting game bird hunters have been expanded to provide more opportunities for Manitoba residents to participate in waterfowl hunting. Mentored youth waterfowl hunting programs are now being offered in several regions of the province in co-operation with volunteer groups and participation continues to grow. In addition, special "resident only" waterfowl hunting areas have been created to provide priority hunting sites for Manitobans. The intent is to provide places where residents can hunt without competition from non-resident hunters and to assist landowners who are experiencing crop damage from staging waterfowl.
- Conflicts between wildlife and humans have been on the increase for several years, particularly in urban areas. The Department has continued to develop and deliver programs that will reduce the negative impacts of over-abundant wildlife species. These initiatives include expanded hunting opportunities, increased support for mentored youth hunts, experimental studies involving new deterrent techniques, and increased scaring activities at problem sites. Within urban centres, these programs have been utilized to reduce the impact of high numbers of geese where concern for human health and safety is increasing.
- Manitoba continues to influence local and regional waterfowl management through participation and input into local, national and international working groups such as the Urban Goose Working Group and the Mississippi Flyway Council.

Upland Game Bird Management

- Population trends for most upland game birds in Manitoba indicate that, where habitat has been maintained, numbers of birds remain relatively stable. Spring weather conditions during nesting and rearing periods has a decisive influence on population status. A relatively dry spring helped to enhance overall production by upland game birds, particularly ruffed grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. Due to the widespread distribution of grouse in Manitoba, the provincial population remains stable. Maintenance of provincial WMAs has been beneficial to upland populations.
- Wild turkey populations continue to prosper in southern Manitoba with numbers now exceeding 5,000 birds. Interest in turkeys and turkey hunting has grown. The Department continued to work closely with Wild Gobblers Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation to remove and relocate problem turkeys from urban areas and rural communities. Expansion of the population into new areas of the province has been accomplished through transplanting of problem birds.

Figure 7.
Game Hunting Areas
Sections represent Area boundaries of Province Hunting Areas.



White-tailed Deer

- Although there was normal-to-above-average snowfall within the white-tailed deer range, it did not accumulate until later in the year, which resulted in average deer winter mortality. Deer densities were moderate to high across much of the southern half of the province. High numbers of deer continue to cause damage to agricultural lands, urban yard sites and in deer-vehicle collisions. Deer accounted for over 6,600 vehicle accidents on Manitoba highways and of these 443 occurred in Winnipeg. A Second Deer - Resident Only licence was available in selected game hunting areas in deer hunting zones B, C, D, E and F. A Third Deer - Resident Only licence was offered in select game hunting areas in deer hunting zones E and F.

Table WI.3
Deer Hunting Licences Sold

Licence Type	2006/07	2005/06
Resident rifle season	29,608	28,508
Resident bow hunting	3,128	2,883
Resident muzzleloader	9,085	8,427
Resident second deer	8,949	7,541
Resident third deer	197	150
Non-resident/Canadian deer	798	779
Non-resident/non-Canadian deer	1,442	1,528

Black Bear

- Populations are stable or growing, indicating that harvest of 3,504 is sustainable. Total licence sales have increased (approximately eight per cent since 2000) through the early part of this decade. In 2006, resident and non-resident participation remained constant when compared to the running 3-year average, about 1,400 and 2,100 hunters respectively. Non-resident participation is managed by quota allocations to outfitters and is reviewed every three years. Quality experiences, such as a 75 per cent success rate and a reputation for big bears with a range of colours, are attractive to non-resident hunters.

- Direct measurement of populations is difficult. Consequently, indirect methods are used to detect changes in densities, such as field observations by staff, hunters and outfitters; hunter success rates; and sex ratio and age distribution of the harvest. A computer model, using hunter harvest data and biological samples from hunters and outfitters, is used to evaluate harvest levels to ensure sustainability. Female reproductive tracts are examined to determine the number of foetal attachment(s) and premolar teeth provide their age - these data are used to calculate age at onset and frequency of lactation, and to monitor the potential orphaning rate resulting from the spring harvest of female bear.

Moose

- Moose populations remain low in the Turtle Mountain, Duck Mountain, and Riding Mountain areas, due, in part, to the slow recovery of these populations from losses to winter tick infestations and to increased access created by expanding forest extraction activities in some areas. Moose populations in other areas of the province have remained fairly stable, although below carrying capacity.

- In 2006/07, 4,974 (4,662 in 2005/06) resident and 176 (152 in 2005/06) non-resident moose licences were sold, which represents a seven per cent and 14 per cent increase respectively. This increase is due to an increase in general moose license sales and to those buying the conservation moose package in GHAs 23/23A.

Elk

- Province-wide, the elk population is stable. The Duck Mountain herd remains stable at approximately 1,670 animals and the Porcupine Mountain herds remain stable at approximately 280 animals. The Spruce Woods population remains at about 600 animals. The South Interlake elk population remains slightly above the population goal of 1,000 animals. In 2005, the South Interlake elk population was estimated at 1,180 animals. The number of hunters for this area was increased to reduce the population to the target level. In the Riding Mountain area, the long-term plan was to reduce the population to approximately 2,500 animals, because of concerns for bovine tuberculosis and the transmission of the disease to cattle. Hunting seasons and licence quotas have been used as measures to reduce elk numbers. Aerial surveys indicate that the population reduction target has been achieved. Now that the population reduction target has been achieved, licence quotas will be adjusted to maintain the population at about 2,500 animals.

- In 2006/07, 3,460 elk licences were sold for resident only rifle, archery, and landowner seasons.

Caribou

- Populations of barren-ground caribou are stable or increasing, while coastal herds (Cape Churchill and Penn Island ranges) are stable. There were 750 resident and 249 non-resident licences sold. The non-resident season in Game Hunting Area 1 benefits the northern communities and lodges, where employment opportunities are limited. Accommodations, guiding and outfitting are primary income-generating services with spin-offs to other sectors.

- Manitoba declared boreal woodland caribou to be threatened and produced a document entitled "Manitoba's Conservation and Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou."

Diseases in Wildlife

- Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is an Old World disease that was brought to North America by infected cattle and can be transferred to a variety of wildlife species. There has been evidence of low-level presence of bovine TB in the Riding Mountain area in white-tailed deer and elk. In 2006, bovine TB was detected in a bull elk during blood testing of live elk by Parks Canada in Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP). In August of 2006, Manitoba livestock were declared TB-free by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). This has positive implications for agriculture, wildlife management and human health.

- Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, CFIA, and PCA, the main program partners, have completed the fifth year of a five-year Action Plan for Bovine TB Management in Manitoba, which features expanded surveillance, scientific studies to understand disease dynamics, disease containment, and eradication. Collectively, the agencies form the Bovine TB Task Group and review past work and plan for future endeavours.

- Over 9,350 elk and deer samples have been examined in these areas between 1997 and 2006. Thirty-one elk, mostly from the western portion of the Riding Mountain region, six white-tailed deer harvested in the Grandview area, one deer in the Shoal Lake area and one elk from the Duck Mountain area have tested positive for TB over the nine years of monitoring.

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease affecting the deer family (cervids), including elk, white-tailed deer and mule deer. This disease has been found in captive and wild deer and elk in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and several states. Despite management/containment efforts, the disease is expanding in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Department will remain vigilant in efforts to prevent the disease from spreading into the province and will continue to monitor and consult with jurisdictions that have the disease, regarding research, management activities and control practices.

- From 2001 to 2007, the CWD surveillance program tested over 2,900 hunter-harvested white-tailed deer samples along the Saskatchewan and United States borders in south-western and southern Manitoba and over 1,672 elk samples from Riding Mountain and Duck Mountain areas.

- To date, CWD has not been detected in Manitoba's wild or captive cervids. Containment efforts in Saskatchewan and Alberta were monitored. Several initiatives were undertaken to prevent the introduction of the disease into Manitoba. These initiatives include a ban on the possession and use of any substance that contains materials from cervids and restrictions on the importation of live and dead cervids from other jurisdictions.

Non-resident Hunting Licence Allocation Program

- In 2006, some 2,100 bear licences, 1,450 non-resident deer licences, 250 non-resident caribou licences, and 170 moose licences were purchased by non-resident alien hunters.

- The *Allocation of Hunting Licences Regulation* MR 77/2006 was developed to provide more stability to the licence allocation process and to facilitate the collection of an allocation fee assessed on every non-resident alien licence sold by an outfitter.

Big Game Monitoring

- The dynamics of some big game populations are evaluated annually to provide input to decisions on hunting seasons and other management tasks. There are three main categories of information, gathered through the following activities:
  - Winter aerial surveys of some populations to estimate abundance, sex and age composition, recruitment and distribution.
  - Mail questionnaires to estimate harvests, hunter effort and hunter distribution.
  - Some biological specimen collection to assess age and reproductive status.

  All data are entered into computer simulations (models) to estimate the consequences of alternative management options.

Aerial Surveys

- The 2006/07 aerial survey program focused on estimating the number of moose in Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) 17A, 13, 13A, 18, 18A, 18B & 18C.

- GHA 17A – (Eastern Region): An aerial survey to determine the moose population in GHA 17A was conducted in January 2007. The moose population was estimated to be 505 (± 24.91 per cent at 95 per cent confidence). The calf segment is estimated at 159 animals, the cow segment is 249 animals and bulls are estimated at 97 animals. The results indicate the population has declined from the 1998 level of 1,560 animals. Licensed moose hunting in GHA 17A is are resident only non-draw fall and winter seasons. The bag limit in all seasons is "one bull moose."

- GHAs 13 & 13A – (Porcupine Mountain - Western Region): An aerial survey to determine the moose population in GHAs 13 and 13A was conducted in January and February 2007. The moose population was estimated at 731 (± 21.18 per cent at 95 per cent confidence), down approximately 34.6 per cent, or about 387 animals, from the previous estimate of 1,118 in 1997. The calf segment of the population was similar to 1998 results, while the cow segment has declined from 51 per cent in 1998 to 46 per cent in 2007. Bulls increased from 29 per cent in 1998 to 34 per cent in 2007. The bag limit in the rifle seasons was "bulls only."

- GHAs 18, 18A, 18B & 18C (Duck Mountain - Western Region): An aerial survey to determine the moose population in GHAs 18, 18A, 18B and 18C was conducted in January 2007. The moose population was estimated at 1,895 (± 13.83 per cent at 95 per cent confidence), down approximately 37.6 per cent or about 1,144 animals from the previous estimate of 3,039 in 1999. The percentage of cows in the population declined from 44 per cent in 1998 to 37 per cent in 2007. Calf numbers were up from the previous survey. The bull component of the population remained unchanged from the previous survey. The rifle season bag limit is "bulls only."

Hunter Questionnaires, Big Game Seasons

- The analysis of the questionnaires sent out the previous year occurs early in each fiscal year, i.e. results reported in a given year are for the year before. In 2005/06, approximately 30,000 questionnaires were mailed and 13,000 responses received. The results are summarized below.

Table WI.4
Resident Hunter Big Game Harvest, 2005/06

Season	Licences Sold	Estimated Harvest
Deer rifle	28,508	19,487
Deer archery	2,883	1,167
Deer muzzleloader	8,427	5,529
Deer (antlerless) second	7,541	5,077
Moose rifle	3,036	557
Moose (conservation)	252	47
Moose (draw) rifle	1,216	185
Moose archery	119	8
Moose (draw) archery	39	18
Elk (draw) rifle	2,048	304
Elk (draw) archery	826	111
Elk (draw) landowner	503	137
Black Bear	1,510	491

The questionnaires for the 2006/07 year were mailed and will be analyzed for inclusion in 2007/08 report.

Biological Specimen Collection

- Teeth and reproductive tracts were collected from hunter harvested female black bears (in 2005 collection of teeth from males was discontinued) and hunters offered small rewards for their submissions. Samples were obtained from 67 per cent of the estimated bear harvest. An analysis of the 2004 samples revealed that:
  - 319 female and 955 male pre-molars were aged: average age for females was 6.43 years (oldest aged was 33.3 years in 2003) and for males, 4.8 years (oldest aged was 29.5 years in 1996).
  - analysis of reproductive tract indicates that less than eight per cent showed scaring from the year of harvest (suggesting it had been pregnant), and that the average scar count for females aged 2-5 (representing 60 per cent of the female sample) and 6+ was 2.4.

Analysis of 2005 and 2006 female samples has not yet been completed.

Problem Wildlife

- The expanded Problem Beaver Management Program, consisting of the summer removal and winter subsidy components, was implemented for the sixth consecutive year. This program offered a subsidy of $15.00 per beaver taken from designated municipalities and registered trapline districts. The winter subsidy encourages proactive harvest in problem areas during the trapping season when the pelts have market value. The summer removal program addresses beaver problems by encouraging their removal after the trapping season is closed. Municipalities with the greatest beaver problems are in the Western Region.

- The Problem Beaver Management Program again included a series of workshops throughout the province to demonstrate non-lethal methods to address problem beaver and build capacity at the local level. This included the construction and installation of pond levellers and beaver deceivers. As well, problem beaver management workshops were offered in chronic problem areas. These workshops were

contracted to an independent consultant and delivered in the communities with co-operation and support of Manitoba Conservation District offices, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and Municipal Corporations.

- Other administrative changes to the program involved making the winter and summer components run consecutively, rather than with a long break separating them.

- Problem Predator Removal Services Program was provided to Manitoba agriculture producers and other property owners through a $50,000 contract with the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). The program provided for licensed trapper action following a predator (primarily coyotes and wolves) claim by a producer through Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation (MASC). A total of 64 complaints were dealt with in 2006/07 and 24 wolves, 117 coyotes and 8 foxes were removed. These funds also provided for a series of predator control and animal husbandry workshops, which were held in six chronic problem predator areas in southern Manitoba for producers and other interested parties. The workshops featured presentations by Manitoba Conservation, MASC, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI), and the MTA. MAFRI and MASC staff provided education extension information on animal husbandry to livestock producers who attended the workshops.

- The Wildlife Crop Damage Compensation Program, administered by MASC, reimburses producers 80 per cent of the assessed value for wildlife damages to beehives and produce, for deer, elk and bear damage to crops and property, and for livestock loss or injuries from predators such as wolves. Compensation paid for damages caused by 81 deer claims and 122 elk claims to standing crops and stored hay amounted to $217,721, while total black bear claims 120 accounted for an additional $183,207. Due to an early grain harvest 2006 was a relatively light year for waterfowl crop damage compensation as it decreased to $308,405 compared to the previous year when it was $342,400 and $1,015,100 in 2004. Damage by black bears to leafcutter bee operations dropped substantively from $67,600 (2005) to $8,916 while damage to honey operations also decreased substantially from $198,300 the previous year to $40,521 in 2006.

- This was the 11th year for the Predator/Livestock Damage Compensation Program administered by MASC. The number of predator claims increased from 1,139 the year previous to 1,444 for a total of record level of $428,168 paid in compensation.

- Approximately 134,000 Canada geese staged inside the perimeter highway around the City of Winnipeg last fall. Staff fielded calls from the public about property damage and health risks from goose droppings, vehicle accidents and threats by adult geese defending their broods. There is also a continued high level of concern for the possibility of aircraft collisions with geese.

- Through the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee, Manitoba has been promoting the concept for a national management strategy to be developed that addresses urban migratory bird management. Manitoba expends over $10,000 per year to address the problems, but it continues to grow. Environment Canada, Transport Canada, and the Governments of Ontario and Manitoba are participating on a working group to address this emerging urban issue.

- Another emerging issue is the matter of deer in an urban environment particularly Winnipeg and those rural municipalities within the capital region. The department conducted aerial surveys of the Birds Hill Provincial Park and area, the City of Winnipeg and surrounding areas. Between Birds Hill and Winnipeg over 2,000 white-tailed deer were observed, of which 1,188 were within the city. There are few natural predators in the region. The major mortality factor is vehicle collisions - 327 deer collisions were reported to Manitoba Public Insurance in 2005 and this has increased by approximately 30 per cent where there were 433 deer-vehicle collisions last year. In one area of Charleswood, the citizens of the community have formed a committee to review the matter of deer in their community. Manitoba Conservation and the City of Winnipeg staff have provided technical assistance. As well, Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Public Insurance and the City of Winnipeg developed a brochure entitled "Living with White-tailed Deer." Similar situations with deer are also being experienced in other urban areas such as Pinawa. Manitoba Conservation staff have met with the Local Government District (LGD) of Pinawa to review the issue and

proposed a community meeting to inform the local citizens and to provide an opportunity to learn about deer biology and to hear different views on the issue.

- The City of Winnipeg and Manitoba Conservation staff are developing a "Winnipeg Deer Strategy."

- Staff from Manitoba Conservation also participates on the "Manitoba Wildlife Collision Stakeholders Committee" that includes representatives from Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI), City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. Wildlife-vehicle collisions have become a major concern. As some wildlife population numbers increase the number of collisions is also expected to increase. The role of the committee is to facilitate discussions, and identify and develop solutions that if implemented, would reduce the number of collisions.

- Staff also represent the department on the Manitoba Road Safety Coordinating Committee (MRSCC) that has been established as the central co-ordinating body to address the significant human and socio-economic costs of road-related injuries and fatalities in Manitoba. Since wildlife account for approximately 10,000 accident claims in Manitoba, the department is involved in addressing this form of accident.

- The Manitoba Be Bear Smart initiative was implemented in June 2005. The goal of Be Bear Smart is to teach people how to reduce conflicts with black bears thereby safeguarding human welfare and property. The initiative proposes three phases: 1) education and awareness; 2) a pilot study to identify the most effective strategies to encourage Bear Smart behaviour over the long-term; and 3) the positive outcomes derived from the study will be showcased to other Manitoba communities wishing to reduce conflict with bears. Bear Smart workshops were held in twelve communities in the Interlake and Eastern regions.

Furbearer Management

The program helps to sustain populations of furbearers and promotes optimum harvests and economic, social, and cultural returns to trappers and their families. Both furbearer production and the number of each species sold by trappers are monitored. The program encourages humane trapping and promotes education and public understanding of furbearer management and the fur industry. Note that harvest and licence/permit information is based on the Fur Year, September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006.

In general, poor travel conditions in the registered trapping area at the beginning of the winter caused a late start in many areas and contributed to a reduction in harvest of most of those species. Record high gasoline prices also caused some trappers to reduce their efforts.

At the same time, significant increases in the price of several species (marten and muskrat, especially) offset some trapper losses from high fuel prices and late winter harvest.

- Marten are the most valuable and numerous furbearing species taken by trappers in Manitoba. The harvest in 2005/06 dropped as expected to 16,420 animals, compared to 27,664 animals in the previous year. In the last two decades, this species has re-occupied most available habitats in Manitoba. Now, marten numbers and the size of the harvest seem to be correlated with prey availability. As expected, the number of prey declined significantly in the summer and fall of 2004, which directly and indirectly increased marten mortality over that winter, and resulted in subsequent population drop by Fur Year 2005/06. Given the time for prey numbers to rebound, the population cycle may be 3-4 years long. The same pattern was seen following the record harvest in 2000/01.

- Lynx cycles continue to recover from the very low numbers in the 1980s. The current cycle peaked in the last two seasons and this was reflected in the number of sightings, especially in southern Manitoba. The 2005/06 provincial harvest of 741 lynx was down from 1,006 the previous year. The species is approaching the trough of its 10-year population cycle. The lynx harvest will continue to be closely monitored and action may be taken as its population cycle now reaches the cyclic low.

- Coyote harvests were increased from previous years because of good numbers and increased prices for coyote pelts. The numbers taken were up slightly in 2005/06 to 8,566 compared to the precious year's harvest of 7,931.

- Red fox populations remained relatively steady and the harvest was down slightly (2,251) in spite of slightly higher prices.

- A slight recovery occurred in the otter harvest (1,842 animals in 2005/06 from 1,664 in 2004/05), following significant decreases in 2003/04. Prices remained strong, but the closure of the otter market in May 2006 by China resulted in holdbacks of inventory that month. Otter prices were subsequently reduced by the February 2007 auctions, and are expected to result in reduced otter harvest for 2006/07.

- The arctic fox harvest crashed to 41 animals, after a previous peak of 514. A reduction in local populations, low prices, and late winter onset contributed to the drop.

- Despite a significant price increase for beaver pelt (average of $28.27 in 2005/06, up from $25.41) caused the harvest to remain low at 20,457. At the same time, populations remain high, which results in significant problem incidents. The Problem Beaver Management Program, which subsidizes municipalities and registered trappers in certain RTL sections for problem beaver removal, is credited for keeping the harvest higher than it would have been. A lower beaver harvest would allow populations to increase and exacerbate flooding that damages municipal, provincial and private property.

- Wolverine populations are believed to be stable-to-increasing, especially along the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The harvest was 32 animals, down from 47 the previous year likely as a result of less trapper effort and local population fluctuations.

- The bobcat harvest dropped significantly, relative to the historic harvest, with five taken in 2005/06. Their population decrease follows a similar trend in North Dakota and Minnesota. This species is at the northern extent of its range in Manitoba.

- Trapping licence/permit sales reached 6,265 in 2005/06. This figure included 168 free Youth Trapping Licences/Permits, comparable with the 160 figure the previous year. Trapper education graduates aged 12 – 17 in Manitoba like some others jurisdictions provide a no-fee program for youth trappers.

- Staff worked with the Fur Institute of Canada's Trap Research and Development Committee on humane trapping devices and manufacturing standards. All approved devices are annually listed in the *Manitoba Trapping Guide*, along with the timetable for implementation of the Canada-Russia-European Union Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards.

- Considerable effort was again put into education services in 2006/07, leading to 332 students completing the Mandatory Trapper Education Program - a significant increase from 280 the previous year. Workshops locations included Cross Lake, Poplar River, Lac du Bonnet, Winkler, Rivers, Nelson House, Norway House, Oxford House, Fisher River, Pelican Rapids, Moose Lake, South Indian Lake, Thompson, Tramping Lake, Dallas, Ste. Anne, and Manitou.

- Workshop instructors for all trapper education events are from the Department and the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). Tramping Lake Field Station was used by staff and students from University College of the North Resource Management Program.

- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch continued to support the "Re-Connecting with the Land" educational program. Its curricula focus on community studies, fishing, hunting and trapping. It was developed primarily for use in Aboriginal communities; however, they were approved by Manitoba Education, Citizenship, and Youth and can be incorporated in any school in Manitoba. There has been considerable support for its continued development from individual First Nations, schools and the Manitoba Assembly of Chiefs.

Table WI.5
12.4(g)2 Game, Fur and Problem Wildlife Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	850.5	12.29	752.3	98.2	
Other Expenditures	394.8		440.8	(46.0)	
Grant Assistance	89.9		89.9	0.0	
Total 12.4(g)2	**1,335.2**	**12.29**	**1,283.0**	**52.2**	

Table WI.6
Fur Statistics, Year ending August 31, 2006

Species	Quantity	Average Price $	Production Value $	% of Total Value	Royalty Per Pelt	Royalty $
Badger	148	18.93	2,802	.1	0.50	74
Bear	897	86.25	77,366	2.0	1.00	897
Beaver	20,457	28.87	590,594	19.0	0.50	10,229
Bobcat	5	148.41	742	.1	1.00	5
Coyote	8,566	39.32	336,815	11.0	1.00	8,566
Ermine	2,899	6.82	19,771	1.0	0.05	145
Fisher	1,525	68.54	69	0.0	1.00	1,525
Fox, Blue	1	16.64	17	0.0	0.50	1
Fox, Cross	108	26.20	2,830	.1	0.50	54
Fox, Red	2,118	26.20	55,492	2.0	0.50	1,059
Fox, Silver	25	26.20	655	.1	0.50	13
Fox, White	46	16.64	765	.1	0.50	23
Lynx	741	151.93	112,580	4.0	1.00	741
Marten	16,420	83.55	1,371,891	43.0	1.00	16,420
Mink	2,427	23.56	57,180	2.0	0.50	1,214
Muskrat	32,918	5.68	186,974	6.0	0.05	1,646
Otter	1,842	160.24	295,162	9.0	0.75	1,382
Raccoon	2,153	12.43	26,762	1.0	0.50	1,077
Squirrel	3,593	1.38	4,958	.2	0.05	180
Wolf, Timber	256	133.00	34,048	1.0	1.00	256
Wolverine	32	200.66	6,421	.2	2.50	80
Total			$3,183,904			$45,587

Notes: 1.The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995/96 *Annual Report*, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based on the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2006/07 Annual Report will contain information on the 2005/06 Fur Year Ending August 31, 2006.

Table WI.7

Trappers and Value of Wild Fur Production 1995/96 to 2005/06

Year	Open Area Trappers (#)	Registered Trapline Trappers (#)	Estimated Production Value ($)
1995/96	6,336	1,865	2,639,452
1996/97	4,827	1,975	3,715,834
1997/98	5,315	2,049	3,306,968
1998/99	4,750	1,856	2,037,022
1999/00	4,276	1,669	1,967,404
2000/01	4,355	1,827	2,769,981
2001/02	4,958	1,764	2,448,804
2002/03	5,503	1,668	2,998,159
2003/04	5,817	1,708	3,039,009
2004/05	5,174	1,707	3,108,794
2005/06	5,504	1,709	3,183,904

Notes: 1.The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995/96 *Annual Report*, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based on the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2006/07 Annual Report will contain information on the 2005/06 Fur Year Ending August 31, 2006.

Table WI.8
Hunting Licences Sold 2006/07

Type of Licence	Fee $	Number Sold	Revenue $
Game Bird			
Resident	19.63	11,515	215,127
Non-resident	74.77	632	46,702
Non-resident alien	140.19	5,399	752,026
Wild Turkey			
Resident	20.56	750	14,755
Resident – youth	4.67	71	269
Moose			
Resident	46.73	4,473	146,634
Resident – conservation	37.39	378	27,825
Non-resident	271.03	13	3,520
Non-resident alien	327.10	176	57,394
Elk			
Resident	46.73	3,459	161,639
Caribou			
Resident	42.06	511	21,493
Resident – second	93.46	246	22,991
Non-resident alien	327.10	131	42,719
Non-resident alien – second	327.10	118	38,480
Black Bear			
Resident	28.04	1,366	37,065
Non-resident	93.46	36	3,350
Non-resident alien	196.26	2,092	408,507
Deer			
Resident	32.71	42,375	1,344,937
Resident – second	18.69	8,941	158,562
Resident – third	18.69	197	3,500
Non-resident	140.19	798	111,341
Non-resident alien	196.26	1,442	281,565
Youth Hunting Licence Package			
Resident of Manitoba	9.35	3,657	30,640
Total Licence Sales			
Resident		77,939	2,185,437
Non-resident		1,479	164,912
Non-resident alien		9,358	1,580,691
Total			
Replacement	Variable	145	1,206
Grand Totals		88,921	3,932,246

Notes: 1. Revenue figures are net (less vendor's commission).
2. Non-resident caribou licences are valid for both Canadian and non-Canadian hunters and are included with the non-resident alien totals.
3. Resident conservation moose licences are issued as a 2 Licence/1 tag package (378 licences = 189 packages).
4. A youth turkey hunting licence for residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003.
5. A third deer hunting licence for residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003.
6. The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995/96 *Annual Report*, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based on the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2006/07 Annual Report will contain information on the 2005/06 Fur Year Ending August 31, 2006.

Table WI.9
Hunting Licence Sales and Revenue 1996/97 to 2006/07

	Game Bird		Big Game		Totals	
Year	# Sold	Revenue $	# Sold	Revenue $	# Sold	Revenue $
1996/97	24,789	890,610	71,955	2,208,504	96,744	3,099,114
1997/98	23,446	1,056,021	63,668	2,402,914	87,114	3,458,935
1998/99	23,816	1,112,931	59,743	2,423,557	83,559	3,536,488
1999/00	22,096	1,070,616	67,058	2,610,746	89,154	3,681,362
2000/01	19,742	950,234	62,830	2,640,246	82,572	3,590,480
2001/02	18,287	824,802	64,407	2,659,739	82,694	3,484,540
2002/03	17,850	896,328	64,154	2,677,818	82,004	3,574,145
2003/04	18,747	942,929	64,555	2,656,659	83,302	3,599,589
2004/05	17,058	1,036,647	66,594	2,851,505	83,652	3,888,152
2005/06	16,757	1,000,431	66,861	2,851,527	83,618	3,851,957
2006/07	18,367	1,028,879	70,554	2,903,367	88,921	3,932,246

Notes:
1. $5.00 per licence for wildlife enhancement was introduced in 1997/98.
2. Second licences for resident and non-resident caribou hunters were introduced in 1999/00.
3. Youth hunting licence package for residents of Manitoba was introduced in 1999/00.
4. Youth turkey hunting licence for residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04.
5. Third deer hunting licence for residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04

Table WI.10
Wildlife Licence Revenue 2005/06

Type of Licence	Revenue $
Hunting Licences	
Game Bird Licences	1,013,856
Wild Turkey Licences	15,024
Black Bear Licences	448,921
Replacement Licences	1,206
Caribou Licences	125,683
Deer Licences	1,899,905
Elk Licences	161,639
Moose Licences	235,373
Youth Hunting Licence Package	30,640
Total – Hunting	**$3,932,246**
Commercial Licences	
Trapper Licences *	33,880
Fur Dealer Licences *	1,750
Amphibians and Reptiles Licences	128
Total – Commercial	**$35,758**
Total Revenue	**$3,968,004**

* Reflects revenue for the 2005/06 Fur Year ending August 31, 2006.

Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring

Wildlife Lands Unit

The Wildlife Lands Unit develops policies, plans and programs to secure, protect and enhance wildlife habitat on Crown and private land. It is responsible for the management of all lands designated for wildlife including wildlife management areas (WMAs), public shooting grounds, refuges and special conservation areas.

The Wildlife Lands Unit also directs and co-ordinates Manitoba's Heritage Marsh Program, which includes management for protection and enhancement, studies and inventories to support management recommendations, and the development of viewing, interpretive and access facilities. The Section also co-operates with Tourism Development in the provision of wildlife-viewing facilities associated with the Watchable Wildlife Program.

The following key activities were carried out in 2006/07.

Wildlife Management Area Program

- Habitat enhancement activities (e.g. control encroaching shrubs and trees on prairie sites to improve sharp-tailed grouse habitat) were carried out at various WMAs. Standard boundary signs were produced for WMAs and refuges.

- The local advisory committee for the Lake Francis WMA continued to meet regularly to address concerns regarding water levels in the lake and low muskrat populations.

- Two new WMAs were designated - Delta Marsh, and Hilltop, while lands were added to the Onanole WMA. Some 8,000 hectares of the Delta Marsh WMA were included in the Protected Areas Initiative.

Wildlife Management Area Maintenance

- The Wildlife Enhancement Initiative funded maintenance and enhancement of WMAs, including prairie enhancement in the Narcisse WMA, road maintenance in the Mantagao Lake WMA and weed control in several southern WMAs.

Land Management and Use

- The Section reviewed over 500 land-use proposals to assess impacts to wildlife habitat. These included applications for general permits and leases, sales, and exchanges of Crown land, Treaty Land Entitlement and municipal development plans and zoning by-laws and amendments. Policy proposals were reviewed to evaluate impacts on wildlife, habitat, land management, and use.

Habitat Stewardship Unit

The Habitat Stewardship Unit is responsible for development and management of provincial projects for the federal/provincial habitat stewardship programs including Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, management of the Agro-Manitoba Critical Wildlife Habitat Program, and administration of *The Conservation Agreements Act*. This Unit also provides the link between the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) in the delivery of habitat enhancement and protection programs.

The following key activities were carried out in 2006/07.

Habitat Stewardship for Species at Risk

- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch staff, in conjunction with a co-ordinator under contract to MHHC, is involved in implementing projects in partnership with the federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP) in Manitoba. Activities include development of projects, review and recommendation of project funding (as a member of the Working Group), implementation, and reporting.

- Federal funds, matched a minimum of 1:1 by provincial and other partners' funds, are available for projects that address the habitat stewardship needs of federally listed species at risk (endangered and threatened). Approved projects target private lands, provincial Crown lands, and municipal lands, through stewardship programs delivered by various organizations to landowners, lease holders, resource users, and communities.

- In 2006/07, $734,200 in federal funding was received for HSP projects in Manitoba with $629,200 of that going to Manitoba Conservation/ Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation projects. Matching funds and in-kind contributions totalling $768,335 were provided by the province, industry and community groups in support of these projects.

Tall Grass Prairie Preserve

- The Department continued to chair the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Management Committee in 2006/07. Other agencies actively involved in the preserve include Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, the Manitoba Naturalists Society, Environment Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The committee produced an annual work plan for field activities at the preserve and the Department funded some of the delivery costs. Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Manitoba Naturalists Society supported monitoring and management activities on the preserve. The committee directs ongoing monitoring and management activities for the properties belonging to the preserve partners.

- The Section continued to cover the monitoring expenses of the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve biological staff plus a Green Team staff person who assists with field activities. Monitoring of rare orchids, insects, songbirds, permanent sample plots, and management prescriptions continued to be among the key field activities on preserve lands. In 2006/07, 4,798 flowering stems of western prairie fringed-orchid and 747 of Great Plains' ladies-tresses were counted on preserve properties and in roadside ditches in the area. Small white lady's-slippers' numbers were monitored at four permanent plots. A total of 250 plants were counted on these plots. Banding under the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program was not done in 2006/07 because the very small bands needed for the prairie birds were not available. Every effort is being made to resume this activity in 2007. Song-bird surveys were only completed in the north block and 18 species were recorded. Sharp-tailed grouse surveys continued in 2006/07 and six dancing grounds or leks were active. In 2007, the survey will be conducted in early to mid-April to capture peak activities on the leks.

- Preserve biologists assisted with the inventory of 160 acres of Crown land within the Preserve area in response to a Crown land sale request. They located a large patch of adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) and whorled loosestrife (*Sterionema quadriflorum*) on the property. Both these species are considered rare provincially.

- Weather station data continued to be collected at the Preserve in 2006/07. The May to July period was much drier in 2006 with only 118.6 millimetres of precipitation compared to 364.5 millimetres in 2005.

- Dryer conditions in the spring of 2006 enabled controlled burns to be used as an effective management tool to enhance the grassland components of the Preserve. In 2006/07 a total of 1,680 acres were burned. Plant identification signs were replaced along the interpretive trail as required. Ongoing vegetation monitoring was carried out at the grazing project to determine the effects of grazing on the tall grass prairie ecosystem especially potential impacts on small white lady's-slippers. Approximately 50 leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) patches have been found on preserve lands and the GPS location of each has been recorded. Early in the flowering time (June 14-18) each plot was visited and any plants found were pulled out. Trees of several clones of aspen were girdled to kill the trees and in so doing, control aspen encroachment.

- Seven of the 14 new properties (2,240 acres in total) acquired recently by the Nature Conservancy of Canada were inventoried (inventory sampling and vegetation mapping) in 2006/07. Special note was made of species listed as endangered, such as the western prairie fringed orchid as well as provincially rare species.

- The agricultural potential for grazing or haying was assessed on Preserve properties and the information was used to determine the stocking rate. Two newly acquired quarter sections were fenced and leased to a local producer for grazing. At the end of the grazing season the condition of all grazed properties were assessed to document the impacts of grazing activities. The biological staff used this information to determine if the stocking rates for 2006 met the objectives and if any adjustments to the stocking rates should be made for 2007.

- Biological research is an important component of the Preserve. In 2006/07, five researchers worked on approved projects on Preserve lands including studies on insect pollinators of the western prairie fringed-orchid; Dakota skippers; habitat assessments for grassland bird studies; soil sampling and grazing assessments.

- Three onsite tours were provided to various groups during the 2006/07 season. Preserve biologists also delivered the Manitoba Naturalists Society School Program in May, June, September, and October. Thirteen presentations were given to eight schools. Seven groups participated in the on-site field trip as a follow-up to the school presentation.

- A float was entered in three local parades (Vita, Gardenton and Steinbach) to promote the Preserve and Prairie Day. 2006 was the International Prairie Days event, and Preserve staff organized a full day of activities at the Agassiz Interpretive Trail followed by dinner and evening events at the Gardenton Park. On the following day a driving tour of Minnesota's protected lands was given by The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota chapter and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources staff to view their various management practices.

Mixed-grass Prairie Projects

- Inventory and grazing demonstration projects continued in the mixed-grass prairie region in the southwest area of Manitoba in 2006/07.

- The goal of the inventory was to determine the extent and quality of mixed-grass prairie habitat remaining in Manitoba. In 2006, the project focused on revisiting higher quality sites to monitor any threats or changes in habitat quality, and interviewing landowners on these sites to assess their attitudes and awareness about mixed-grass prairie management and conservation.

- Approximately 75 per cent of sites improved or did not change in quality from the last assessment, while 25 per cent declined in quality. The most common causes for decline in quality were often combinations of overgrazing, spread of leafy spurge, and changes in species composition caused by manure application. The results of the inventory help to determine the long-term viability of these habitats and along with the interview process will help to direct habitat conservation initiatives in the future.

- 86 sites totalling 15,322 acres were inventoried in 2006. Of these sites 140 acres were graded "A," 7,482 acres were graded "B," 7160 acres were graded "C" and 540 acres were graded "D". The total of mixed-grass prairie included in the inventory now stands at 179,096 acres with 60 per cent being graded as "C" or better, which means it is in good condition or has the potential to return to good condition with proper management.

- The Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Project promotes agricultural activities that incorporate wise land stewardship and biodiversity conservation by entering into agreements with landowners to implement the twice-over rotational grazing system on native grasslands. In 2006/07, seven five-year agreements were signed to protect 2,192 acres of native grasslands. Various extension activities including a tour, a three-day workshop and a one-day information session were held to allow landowners with native pastures to learn more about the principles behind the success of the twice-over system, and to demonstrate how the system can be used as a tool to enhance native grasslands for wildlife and livestock producers.

- Additional funding for both projects was matched by Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

Urban Habitat Stewardship Project

- Production and printing of *Naturescape Manitoba* was completed in 2006. A total of 3,500 copies of this book were printed as part of the Capital Region Urban Habitat Stewardship Project. Production was overseen by a Naturescape Manitoba Committee, comprised of representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Naturalists Society, the City of Winnipeg, Environment Canada and Fort Whyte Centre. This educational book, with information on native species and project ideas, is designed to help organizations and individuals transform small urban and rural areas, including backyards, into wildlife habitat, and are available from book sellers across southern Manitoba.

Conservation Agreements Board

- The Manitoba Conservation Agreements Board met to review one application from a landowner who wished to terminate a conservation agreement on 160 acres. The Conservation Agreements Board has received a total of 25 applications since 2000.

Ecosystem Monitoring Unit

The Ecosystem Monitoring Unit is responsible for monitoring the quality of Manitoba's terrestrial environment, which includes collecting data to determine the effects of industrial emissions and land-use changes on terrestrial ecosystem components (soil, vegetation, wildlife and habitat). Data that is collected and the extensive technical knowledge base of the staff enables the Unit to deliver scientifically based recommendations and technical support toward maintaining the quality of terrestrial ecosystems.

The following key activities were carried out in 2006/07.

- Collecting soil samples at permanent sites near Thompson to investigate the ability of clay soils to hold current and future deposition of heavy metals and to assess the ultimate fate of heavy metals emitted into the air from the INCO smelter.
- Sampling soils in the vicinity of the Ruttan Mine (Leaf Rapids) to determine if tailings dust is being deposited in the adjacent forest community.
- Collecting water samples for metals and general chemistry analysis and checking the condition of moss re-vegetation trial plots at the Baker Patton Mine site near Flin Flon.
- Conducting a detailed survey to determine the concentration of metals and other elements in surface soils in Flin Flon.

- Evaluating and comparing the re-vegetation success of native versus non-native plant species and monitoring the natural re-establishment of vegetation on rip-rap material at reconstructed dikes along the Assiniboine River.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- In 2006/07, 71 development proposals under *The Environment Act* were reviewed, a slight increase over 2005/06. They included wind energy projects, highway upgrades, mine closure plans, wastewater-treatment facilities, crop protection warehouses, bulk fertilizer facilities, utility corridors, and town water supplies. Eight draft licences were reviewed, as well as the annual operating plans for Louisiana Pacific Canada, Tolko Manitoba, and Tembec/Pine Falls Paper. Three SDIF (Sustainable Development Innovation Fund) proposals were reviewed.

Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba

- The Branch continues to participate in the Forest Practices Committee which is developing forest practices to mitigate or minimize the impacts of forestry activities on ecosystems and the habitats that support wildlife.

- Work continues on the Branch's reference document, *Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba*. The document describes measures to mitigate disturbances on wildlife and wildlife habitat from developments and land uses including forestry, highway and hydro construction, and mining exploration and development.

Project WILD

- Project WILD is an environmental education program, sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, emphasizing wildlife and implemented under agreements with each province's wildlife agency. Project WILD activities were developed for use in the Grade Four science curriculum. Teachers are required to attend an in-service training workshop, usually conducted jointly by a wildlife specialist and a trained workshop facilitator. Last year, one workshop was held at Brandon University for the education students.

Table WI.11

12.4(g)3 Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	463.9	7.00	480.0	(16.1)	
Other Expenditures	77.2		76.7	0.5	
Grant Assistance	645.0		645.0	0.0	
Total 12.4(g)3	**1,186.1**	**7.00**	**1,201.7**	**(15.6)**	

Biodiversity Conservation

The section provides information and services to sustain Manitoba's natural biological diversity. It contains the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, which links Manitoba to other conservation partners and assists the province in meeting its International, National and Provincial agreements to conserve biodiversity, including species at risk. The authoritative information provided by the Centre is used in a variety of proactive ways, including Protected Areas Planning, Regional Integrated Resource Management, and Environmental Impact

Assessment. The Centre promotes the social and economic well being of Manitobans through adherence to the principles of sustainable ecological development.

Section activities are focused on three main program areas co-ordinated by a standardized spatial computer database maintained by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre:

1. Inventory and Monitoring of species of conservation concern, including species listed under the *Endangered Species Act* (Manitoba) and/or the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

2. Conservation Status Assessment of over 4,000 species of animals and plants found in Manitoba.

3. Recovery or Management strategies and plans are developed and implemented for listed Species at Risk.

Other key section activities include:

4. Policy and Procedures development, especially for Species at Risk.

5. Education, Research and Outreach

These programs and activities depend on the participation and co-operation of Manitoba citizens to assist in the conservation of our natural biological diversity.

Manitoba Conservation Data Centre

The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a member of NatureServe International (www.natureserve.org), a network of 80 similar centres monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere, and also a member of NatureServe Canada, an organization to which CDCs from all Canadian provinces and one territory belong. The CDC completes an annual exchange of data integrating Manitoba's data with the entire network. Information from the Canadian CDC databases is recognized by Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada as being a key component of their efforts to monitor and protect species at risk.

The CDC responded to hundreds of information requests in 2006/07 from provincial and federal government departments, industry, consultants, schools, universities, non-government organizations, and members of the public. Numerous requests related to environmental impact assessments. Rare species occurrence information was also used in the selection process for identifying potential protected areas with the Protected Areas Initiative.

Specific highlights from 2006/07 include:

- The CDC completed a successful "data mining" exercise with Parks Canada, whereby Parks Canada staff provided information on plants and animals in Riding Mountain and Wapusk National Parks, and the CDC created new and updated records in its database for those species that were of conservation concern. Hundreds of new records from the specimen collections held by Canadian Museum of Nature and Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada were also received and processed.

- The CDC updated its database with information on rare and at risk grassland bird species, collected by staff of Manitoba Conservation over a period of two decades. Hundreds of breeding records for species such as Loggerhead Shrike, Piping Plover and Sprague's Pipit were added or updated, bringing the records up to current network-wide specifications.

- The CDC developed wall maps showing road allowances that support populations of plant species at risk in the Rural Municipalities of Stuartburn and Franklin. Maps will be used by weed

districts, provincial and municipal maintenance workers to allow them to conduct maintenance of road allowances while avoiding areas where species at risk may be flowering or producing seed. Follow-up meetings will be held to assess the success of the effort, and to refine maps as needed to better meet the needs of the users.

Table WI.12
Summary of information in Manitoba Conservation Data Centre's Biotics Database

Information Type[1]	Plant	Animal	Plant Community	AnimalOther[2]	Total
Number of Source Features[3]	3,373	4,493	70	373	8,309
Number of Rare to Uncommon Source Features	3,224	3,997	59	0	7,280
Number of Element Occurrences[4]	1,950	1,318	70	361	3,699

1. The Element Provincial Tracking database allows information to be gathered on plant, animal, community and other elements.
2. Includes elements such as waterbird colonies, and snake and bat hibernacula
3. A Source Feature is based on a discrete observation. Make up the basis of an Element Occurrence
4. A specific example of a plant, animal or vegetative community at a specific geographic location. The functional unit of the Biotics database

Inventory and Monitoring Program

Rare Plants Inventory and Monitoring

- Fieldwork was conducted at more than 150 sites by staff of the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) and others who provided data to the CDC. These surveys resulted in 111 records being added or updated in the CDC database for 35 provincially rare plant species, including ten species listed under *The Endangered Species Act* (Manitoba) or *The Species at Risk Act* (Canada).

Highlights in 2006/07 included:

- Rediscovery of the nationally rare Fascicled Ironweed in two locations along the Rat River, the first time the plant has been confirmed in Manitoba since 1958;
- Discovery of a new population of Northern Adder's tongue, a fern, about 3 kilometres from the only other known occurrence of the species in Manitoba;
- Confirmation of a new location of Ram's-head Lady's-slipper near Gimli, based on a report from staff of the Interlake Region;
- Confirmation of a new location of Western Silvery Aster near Richer, based on a report from a knowledgeable individual, and receipt of additional information on two other locations in the Rural Municipalities of Stuartburn and De Salaberry;
- Receipt of reports for three vascular plant species new to Manitoba (Clustered Burreed, Blunt-lobed Moonwort, and Canada Moonwort) from members of the public;
- Fostering close working relationships with private landowners – surveys included 26 parcels of land held by private landowners or lessees who provided permission for access to the land, including a number whose habitats were found to support important populations of species at risk.

Dragonfly Monitoring

- Manitoba citizens are continuing to help Manitoba Conservation better understand the distribution, relative abundance and conservation status of dragonflies in the province. Specimens of dragonflies submitted by volunteers from around the province have been used to further define the range of a number of species found in Manitoba. The current Manitoba list has

98 species of dragonflies from nine families. Fifteen new species have been recorded in the province since the Manitoba Dragonfly Survey began in 1999.

For more information on the dragonfly survey please visit www.naturenorth.com/dragonfly/index.html.

Pollinators

- About three quarters of the world's flowering plants rely on pollinators, such as bees, for reproduction. Although population trends in some species of wild bees are known to be downward, the lack of information on most species makes assessing their conservation status difficult, if not impossible. A two-year study to inventory the wild bee species of mixed grass prairie habitats in the Shilo/Spruce Woods area has been initiated with researchers at the University of Manitoba to learn more about this important but understudied group of insects.

Breeding Bird Surveys

- Manitoba Conservation promoted and coordinated involvement of local volunteers in the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). The BBS assesses changes in abundance and distribution of birds along predetermined routes that are surveyed using standard protocol at the same time of the year and by the same individuals each year. It is especially useful for assessing the status of songbird species that are not monitored adequately by other surveys. Local and national BBS data reveal that more species are increasing than decreasing in numbers. The data also reveals that certain groups, such as grassland-nesting species, have undergone particularly large, and in many cases significant, declines since BBS surveys began in 1966. 2006 was a particularly productive year for the BBS in Manitoba. New volunteers were recruited for several vacant routes, some existing participants took on additional routes, and weather was co-operative during much of the survey period. These factors combined to produce record numbers for the number of routes (52) and observers (32) and a total of 226 species were recorded on BBS routes in Manitoba.

Threatened Grassland Bird Monitoring

- Wildlife species that are native to North America's prairies have suffered much greater losses since settlement than those from any other habitat guild. Several mammal and bird species have disappeared throughout much or all of their prairie range, and others have declined so drastically that they are listed as Threatened or Endangered throughout the Canadian prairies. Many others species that were formerly widespread or abundant have declined to the extent that they are currently on "watch lists" or are listed as Special Concern. Manitoba's Threatened Grasslands Birds Program has monitored a variety of grassland birds since the mid-1980s including several listed species (Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrow) and a host of other grassland species that are believed to be undergoing long-term declines in abundance or nesting range in the province. Objectives of the Grassland Bird Program include obtaining baseline data on distribution, nesting ecology and limiting factors for grassland species of concern, incorporating data on species distribution into databases to better identify and protect key nesting areas, and working with landowners and interest groups to carry out management efforts that will assist in recovery of these species.

- After being absent in Manitoba for much of the previous decade, Burrowing Owls made an amazing comeback with at least nine pairs being seen or reported in the southwest during 2006. Unusually high predation rates on nests and young, however, resulted in only two pairs successfully raised young. Ferruginous Hawk populations in Manitoba continued a recent decline as only 38 nesting pairs were located during 2006. Nevertheless, the species has made an amazing comeback in the province, as it was absent from the mid-1920s through 1984. Noticeable reductions in ground squirrel numbers in nesting areas since the mid-1990s has resulted in reduced nesting success in recent years and a decline from the 50-55 nesting pairs observed annually during the early 1990s. Nesting populations of Loggerhead Shrike have been declining noticeably in south-western Manitoba.

A total of 54 pairs were located in 2006, much lower than the 327 pairs that were recorded as recently as 1993. Recent declines in nesting success and abundance have been attributed to higher than normal rates of predation on nests and young and to extended rainy periods during many recent summers. Monitoring of grassland passerines in 2006 supported a recent trend towards stable Sprague's Pipit numbers but noticeable declines in Baird's Sparrow breeding abundance.

Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Monitoring

- A small nesting population of the eastern Loggerhead Shrike near Winnipeg is believed to belong to the endangered *migrans* subspecies. Intensified monitoring and conservation efforts have been carried out for this population in recent years because there are less than 50 pairs remaining in Canada. Monitoring of nesting populations during 2006 revealed a total of 12 birds (five nesting pairs and two unmated shrikes). This was down slightly from the 13 birds located in 2005 and 16 from 2004. All 2006 shrikes were located near the north perimeter of Winnipeg, including two pairs that used landscaped sites in clover-leafs of the perimeter and Route 90 and five adults on landscaped city of Winnipeg property near Optimist Park. Four of five pairs successfully raised young.

Great Gray Owl Monitoring

- Few Great Gray Owls were reported and none were banded in the boreal forests of southeast Manitoba during the winter of 2005/06, but seven breeding pairs were observed during the 2006 nesting period, corresponding with rising populations of their main prey, the meadow vole. The Great Gray Owl is highly susceptible to West Nile Virus and ongoing monitoring efforts provide baseline data to assess the potential impact of this disease on birds of prey in Manitoba and elsewhere.

Nocturnal Owl Monitoring

- The Manitoba Volunteer Nocturnal Owl Survey had another successful year with 91 volunteers surveying 65 routes covering 946 kilometres of roads and trails. Surveyors detected 262 owls (0.28 owls detected per kilometre surveyed). On average, one owl was detected every 3.6 kilometres. As in previous years, the two most abundant species detected were the Great Horned Owl and the Northern Saw-whet Owl. The detection rates (number per kilometre) for these species and many other species increased from 2005.

- Plans are underway to share this information and survey methods with others at the 2007 World Owl Conference in Groningen, Netherlands (www.worldowlconference.com). The survey results help determine if Manitoba trends are local or more widespread across the species' North American range. This survey has come a long way since 1991 thanks to the participation of over 650 volunteer owl surveyors to date. 2006 marked the 16th anniversary of this effort which continues to demonstrate the value of citizen-based science monitoring programs. As in other years, owl survey information and experience has been widely shared with the public, students, other provinces and countries.

Conservation Status Assessment Program

Endangered Species Advisory Committee

- The Biodiversity Conservation Section prepares wildlife species status reports for the Endangered Species Advisory Committee, established under *The Endangered Species Act,* to advise the Minister on species at risk. Declaring a species as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened affords it protection, thereby enhancing its likelihood of survival in Manitoba. Population numbers and trends, distribution, habitat needs, and threats are criteria used to assess the conservation status of species. Boreal Woodland Caribou was declared Threatened under *The Endangered Species Act* in 2006/07.

Federal-Provincial Initiatives under Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada

- Participation on international and federal-provincial working groups and committees ensures that Manitoba's efforts to assess and conserve biological diversity are co-ordinated with those of other countries and Canadian jurisdictions. Implementing programs for species at risk and biodiversity demonstrates Manitoba's commitment to the Accord and the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

- The **Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)**: Departmental staff and staff from Water Stewardship participate in this national assessment process to determining which species are at risk by reviewing and contributing to status reports.

- **Report on the General Status of Wildlife in Canada**: In 1998, the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council requested that federal and provincial/territorial governments co-operate to assess and report on general status of wildlife (including plants) every five years, starting in 2000. A federal-provincial working group was established. The second (2005) report was released in spring 2006 and is available at www.wildspecies.ca. The 2005 report includes assessments of all vascular plants, amphibians, reptiles, birds, freshwater and marine fishes, and mammals, as well as selected groups of invertebrates including dragonflies, tiger beetles, butterflies, freshwater mussels, and crayfish. A significant amount of staff time was expended in 2006/07 to complete the report and to set work plans for the 2010 report. The results of this effort set conservation priorities for many species at risk and biodiversity programs and future assessments for listing under *The Endangered Species Act* (Manitoba). It is appropriate to acknowledge the myriad of amateur naturalists and professional biologists in Manitoba who donated their time and expertise to help with this and other provincial conservation status assessments. Over the years, hundreds of Manitoba citizens have been studying, collecting and identifying species that contribute to this process.

- **Biodiversity Convention Office**: Manitoba participates on a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Biodiversity Working Group that is implementing programs such as bio-infomatics, reporting on status and trends in biodiversity, monitoring alien invasive species, and eco-citizenship, including stewardship. Highlights from this year included:

    - Departmental Sustainable Development Strategies were reviewed to compile a list of all biodiversity-related goals and objectives to form a draft provincial biodiversity strategy.

    - The Section organized and plans to co-host with Environment Canada the 16th annual Federal, Provincial & Territorial (FPT) Biodiversity Working Group meeting to be held in Winnipeg in April 2007.

    - Manitoba contributed to the National Biodiversity Working Group's "Biodiversity Outcomes Framework" that is intended to:
        - be a basis for jointly developing policy and setting priorities,
        - integrate biodiversity work by different sectors and levels of government,
        - be used for assessing and reporting on progress of the implementation of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, and
        - create cohesion among jurisdictional, national, and international objectives.

    - Manitoba contributed to the organization and development of the "Ecosystem Status & Trends Report," which will provide a scientific and technical report of Canada's ecosystems and their status for the public and to guide government policy development.

Recovery and Management Program

Recovery efforts were implemented for 23 species at risk in Manitoba, an investment of over $564,000. Species at risk included Woodland Caribou (Boreal population), Piping Plover, Wood Bison, Dakota Skipper, Prairie Skink, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Sprague's Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike

(eastern and western subspecies), Small White Lady's-slipper, Hairy Prairie-clover, Buffalograss, Ross's Gull, Western Spiderwort, Smooth Goosefoot, Western Silvery Aster, Riddell's Goldenrod, Whooping Crane, Ivory Gull, Long-billed Curlew, Short-eared Owl, Wolverine, and Western Prairie Fringed-orchid.

Highlights of some of these efforts are presented below:

The National Recovery Working Group

- Manitoba continued to co-chair the national working group that facilitates the recovery of nationally endangered wildlife in Canada. In 2006/07, Manitoba reported on its recovery efforts (funds and staff years) using the Recovery Information Management System (RIMS) database. This information will be incorporated into the National report to better reflect Manitoba's commitment to recovery efforts.

Plant Species at Risk Recovery

- Manitoba Conservation led the development of the national recovery strategy for the Western Prairie Fringed-orchid, now finalized and available for download on the SARA registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca).
- Collaboration with the National Recovery Team for Plant Species at Risk in Prairie Canada continued. Representatives from provincial and federal agencies in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have agreed to work co-operatively to meet national recovery requirements for SARA-listed plant species found in two or more Prairie Provinces, including Western Spiderwort, Hairy Prairie-clover, Buffalograss and Smooth Goosefoot.
- Collaboration with Environment Canada and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources continued toward the completion of a national recovery strategy for Western Silvery Aster and Small White Lady's-slipper; final strategies should be posted in 2007/08.
- Progress was made toward the completion of a national recovery strategy for Flooded Jellyskin lichen, in collaboration with Environment Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the National Capital Commission, and other stakeholders; final strategy should be posted in 2007/08.
- Activities contributing to the recovery of all plant species at risk included surveys for new locations and monitoring of known locations, dissemination of information on species to researchers conducting recovery-related work, and to conversation-minded organizations for activities such as watershed planning and development of conservation agreements, and development of new extension materials on species at risk such as fact sheets and updated web site content.

Boreal Woodland Caribou Recovery

- Manitoba declared Boreal Woodland Caribou as a threatened species in 2006 and a "Conservation and Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou" was published. Manitoba is represented on Canada's National Boreal Woodland Caribou technical committee by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch which is developing a national strategy for Canada.

- Manitoba continues to work closely with the forest industry to protect boreal caribou habitat and to ensure there is an adequate supply of their life requirements over the long term. Toward this end there are currently approximately 25 caribou radio-collared with both GPS and VHF collars. The former are changed on an annual basis and the data down loaded and analyzed. Approximately $500,000 was spent on this species in the 2006/07 fiscal year. Activities are focused east of Lake Winnipeg and in the Snow Lake area. In addition, MC is co-operating with university researchers who are developing non-intrusive technologies to generate population data.

Dakota Skipper Recovery

- The Dakota Skipper is a butterfly listed as Threatened in Manitoba. It depends on native tall grass prairie and persists only in a few isolated populations in southern Manitoba. Although formerly found in the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve (TGPP) near Tolstoi, it is now believed to be extirpated from the area.

- A long-term project was initiated in co-operation with researchers from the University of Winnipeg to examine the potential for re-establishing a healthy population of skippers at the TGPP. A detailed analysis of the vegetation composition of habitats used by Dakota Skipper was undertaken during the first year of the study at three sites in the Interlake where populations still exist. A similar analysis of vegetation was performed for sites in the north block of the TGPP to determine if suitable habitat still exists to sustain a population of skippers.

- During the second year of the study the vegetative composition of burned and grazed sites of different ages was examined to look at the possibility that disturbances such as burning and cattle grazing were responsible for the extirpation of the Dakota Skipper from the TGPP. More recently burned plots had greater plant diversity and a greater abundance of larval host plants and adult nectar sources suggesting they are more suitable sites for reintroduction of the Dakota Skipper.

- Re-establishing a population of Dakota Skipper in protected prairie habitat is an important component of recovery for this species.

Prairie Skink Recovery

- The Manitoba Prairie Skink Recovery Team completed a draft Recovery Strategy and Action Plan. Work continued on developing citizen-based monitoring guidelines, fact sheet, and habitat stewardship guidelines. The team also identified research priorities and outreach opportunities for 2007/08. Field inventories and monitoring were conducted under the supervision of University of Brandon professor Dr. Pamela Rutherford, with plans to expand research efforts to include the Hognose Snake in 2007/08.

Peregrine Falcon Recovery

- Peregrine Falcon Recovery efforts have been ongoing in Manitoba since 1981. During this time, over 170 young peregrines have been raised for release (by a process known as "hacking") from locations in Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Gimli. Returns of hacked birds and their progeny from Manitoba and other mid-western releases eventually resulted in up to three free-nesting pairs establishing in downtown Winnipeg and 1-2 pairs nesting annually in downtown Brandon. In 2006, single pairs nested successfully in downtown Winnipeg and in Brandon. The Radisson Hotel site in downtown Winnipeg, which has been occupied during most years since 1989, has produced over 45 chicks during this period.

- Parkland Mews, in partnership with Manitoba Conservation, captive bred four young falcons during 2006, two of which were released into the wild. The captive breeding facility for this endangered raptor will help ensure continued success with recovery efforts for this Endangered Manitoba species and is a key part of Manitoba's recovery plan for this species.

Piping Plover Recovery

- Piping Plover monitoring and recovery efforts in Manitoba during 2006 were supported by funding from the Manitoba Special Conservation Fund, the federal Habitat Stewardship Fund, and the Alice Chambers – Hyacinth Colomb Assistantship Program, and support from Manitoba Hydro. Stewardship initiatives included efforts to locate, monitor and protect all active nests on traditional nesting beaches. Manitoba Conservation staff and volunteers also participated in the Piping Plover International Census, a range-wide nesting survey conducted once every five years. In addition to regular surveys carried out by the Piping Plover Recovery staff, a total of 20 volunteers surveyed suitable nesting areas at 42 sites on eight different lakes in Manitoba during the 29 May to 26 June survey period.

- The Piping Plover Recovery Program witnessed new highs and lows in the conservation and protection of these endangered birds in Manitoba during 2006. Only eight Piping Plovers were observed and all were at one site - Grand Beach Provincial Park on Lake Winnipeg. Above-normal water levels that have persisted in many nesting lakes in Manitoba during the past decade, combined with increased vegetation encroachment at many former nesting sites on Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg, has severely limited the amount of available nesting habitat in Manitoba and undoubtedly contributed to reduced nesting populations in recent years. Intensive management and stewardship, however, resulted in the highest number of fledged young produced (13) which represented 3.25 fledged chicks per nesting pair.

- Stewardship and recovery activities undertaken in 2006 included early installation of protective fencing and signage at all major nesting sites to reduce chances of nests or pairs being disturbed by humans or ATV's, temporary fencing and signage erected around feeding areas frequented by family groups, intensive all-day observations of plover family groups during the first two weeks to insure maximum survival of young, and communicating and working with the public and parks staff to eliminate disturbance to pairs, nests and chicks. Exclosure cages were also installed on all nests to protect them from predators, and a Piping Plover Guardian Program at Grand Beach increased public awareness and participation in conservation measures at this key nesting site.

Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery

- The Eastern Manitoba Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Action Group (EMRAG), which includes representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Hydro, Ducks Unlimited, the Portage Natural History Group and the City of Winnipeg, co-ordinates provincial recovery efforts for eastern Loggerhead Shrikes. Funding in 2006 was received from the provincial Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF), the federal Habitat Stewardship Fund, Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Hydro. Stewardship initiatives for the endangered eastern Loggerhead Shrike during 2006 included increased monitoring and protection of nests to insure that most would successfully raise young; working with school groups and landowners to increase awareness; and public participation in recovery efforts. To facilitate awareness of students near the north perimeter nesting area, a Grade 5 class at the West St. Paul School studied aspects of species at risk ecology, assisted in shrike surveys and planted shrike habitat within their school yard. Shrike reports were also solicited by articles in newspapers and on the radio; notices to birdwatchers and naturalists; and an educational display on eastern Loggerhead Shrikes at Oak Hammock Marsh.

Grassland Birds at Risk Recovery Program

- Manitoba's Threatened Grassland Birds Program oversees monitoring and recovery efforts for threatened and declining grassland birds in southern Manitoba. Recovery efforts for Burrowing Owls in 2006 included work with a group of concerned landowners in the Glenboro area to ensure that Manitoba's eastern-most nesting pair of Burrowing Owls was successful; work with the Tiger Hills Conservation District in that same area to initiate efforts to install predator-proof artificial nesting burrows in suitable nesting sites nearby; and regular communication with landowners in the southwest to maximize the chances that pairs were successful. Despite these efforts, higher predation rates were experienced than normal resulting in few of the pairs being successful in 2006.

- Recovery efforts for Ferruginous Hawks have included installation of artificial nests situated near good foraging pastures, in sturdy trees, and in areas where they are not likely to be disturbed. During the late 1980s and 1990s, over 400 artificial nests were erected in Manitoba. During the past decade, more than three-quarters of the nesting Ferruginous pairs have nested in artificial nests, resulting in greatly improved reproductive success.

- Efforts to stem the decline of Loggerhead Shrikes in southern Manitoba have been more challenging since reasons for the decline are not always obvious. Recent efforts have focussed on gaining a

better understanding on limiting factors and return rates, and providing nesting covers that will enhance nesting success. Nesting covers have proven to be effective in improving reproductive success, which results in higher return rates of adults. Increasing the number of young raised in these areas is also important as young tend to return to nest in areas where they were raised. To obtain data on survival and return rates, returning adults are examined with binoculars to determine if they are banded and young in monitored nests are banded on an annual basis.

Chitek Lake Wood Bison Recovery and Management

- A population survey was completed in the Chitek Lake area in February, 2007. A total of 201 bison were counted, including 43 calves, giving a population estimate of approximately 250 animals. The herd has grown steadily since 21 bison were introduced in two groups in 1991 and 1996, although there has been some mortality from predation and starvation during hard winters.

- Chitek Lake is located within the traditional use area of Skownan First Nation and Manitoba Conservation is working co-operatively with the First Nation to develop a Chitek Lake Wood Bison Management Plan. The committee meets three to five times per year to work on the plan and to discuss management issues.

Species at Risk Policy and Procedures

- A draft Manitoba Species at Risk Policy and Procedures was reviewed by the Interdepartmental Directors Group (IDG) and was forwarded to the Executive Management Committee for approval.

Education, Research and Outreach

Dragonfly Education and Outreach

- A new resource on Manitoba dragonflies (www.naturenorth.com/dragonfly/DOM/index.html) was created by NatureNorth with financial and in-kind assistance from Manitoba Conservation.

- A new annual "Festival of Dragonflies" was launched on July 22 and 23, 2007 by Manitoba Conservation in partnership with Oak Hammock Marsh. The edible dragonfly art contest and guided field trip walks were two events that were well attended by the public.

Red-sided Garter Snake Education and Outreach

- The hibernacula at Narcisse remain popular with Manitobans and non-residents who visit each spring to watch the snakes emerge. The abundance of snakes in the Interlake also continues to attract scientists from several major universities in the United States to study the ecology, physiology and reproductive biology of the species.

- Studies of the population dynamics and habitat use of Red-sided Garter Snakes in the Jenpeg area (north of Norway House) continued in co-operation with researchers from the University of Manitoba. These populations are the northern-most for the species in the province and a number of previously unknown hibernacula have been documented. Researchers also discovered what may be the longest individual ever recorded for the sub-species, a female that measured 1.34 metres long.

Eastern Screech Owl Research

- Manitoba Conservation continued to support research on the eastern screech owl which is being done by a Master's graduate student with the Faculty of Environment at the University of Manitoba. This research project is assessing the population density and habitat preferences of

the species in Winnipeg and surrounding areas. The habits of the eastern screech owl are poorly understood in Manitoba, and monitoring this environmental "barometer" in urban areas provides information on how cities can be sustainable habitats for wildlife.

Cougar

- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch held six information sessions for the public in Swan River, Neepawa, Peguis, Riding Mountain National Park (2), and St. Malo Provincial Park; and one for regional staff in Interlake Region. The sessions conveyed information on the biology and ecology of the species and advised people what to do if they encounter a cougar. All of the sessions were well attended, with approximately 500 people attending.

Polar Bear Education and Outreach

- Section staff participated for the third year in an educational program for high school students organized by Polar Bears International, a non-profit organization dedicated to conservation of polar bears through education. Fifteen high school students from Canada, USA, Australia and Denmark travelled to Winnipeg and Churchill to learn about polar bear biology and issues in polar bear management. The program also provided an opportunity for students to learn first hand about the impact of climate change on the arctic.

- One of the students who participated in this year's "camp" was the recipient of the department's 2nd annual Biodiversity Conservation Award at the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium. The award is presented to an exemplary individual project at the Intermediate Level in Animal Biology or Environmental Studies. Section staff judged projects and interviewed finalists to select the winner and runner-up.

Research Permits

- Section staff reviewed and recommended for approval 11 requests for scientific research permits, bringing the total number of new and ongoing research projects on non-game wildlife in the province to 24. Researchers from within and outside Manitoba investigated the biology and ecology of a variety of species ranging from endangered orchids and butterflies to frogs, snakes, small mammals and raptors.

Table WI.13

12.4(g)4 Biodiversity Conservation

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	374.5	6.00	379.0	(4.5)	
Other Expenditures	65.6		72.0	(6.4)	
Total 12.4(g) 4	**440.1**	**6.00**	**451.0**	**(10.9)**	

Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement

Ideal fall harvest conditions in Agro-Manitoba aided farmers' ability to complete the cereal harvest before the arrival of large numbers of waterfowl in early September. These conditions resulted in below-average waterfowl crop damage across Manitoba. Field delivery of the Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program cost $330,300. The program operated two feeding stations and eight Crown land lure crops in damage-prone areas. The program provides farmers with cracker shells, lends scarecrows and propane scare cannons to protect crops. A total of 23 scare-cannon depots were set up to provide farmers ready access to equipment.

The program operated without a Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement for the year, however it is anticipated that there will be a cost-sharing agreement in place in 2007/08.

Table WI.14

12.4(g)5 Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	346.4		350.4	(4.0)	
Total 12.4(g)5	**346.4**		**350.4**	**(4.0)**	

Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

The Special Conservation Fund provides funding to non-profit community-based organizations to undertake projects that will enhance the natural resources of the province. The Fund encourages organizations to develop local projects that foster better understanding of natural resource issues and the environment. Funding is granted according to the monetary value of the Fund and the number of applications received. The maximum funding level per application is $25,000.

The Fund is administered by the Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch.

Table SC.1
12.4(h) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Grant Assistance	155.7		250.0	(94.3)	1.
Total 12.4(h)	**155.7**		**250.0**	**(94.3)**	

1. Under expenditure in Grant Assistance is due to few projects submitted and fewer projects meeting the Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund criteria.

Pollution Prevention

Working co-operatively with local governments, non-government organizations, business and industry associations and other agencies, the Branch promotes initiatives to foster efficient use of resources and best practices that avoids or minimizes pollution and waste, and supports these and other provincial initiatives through the management and administration of grant funding programs. The Branch plans and develops programs, policy, strategies, and legislation and regulations, and programs to reduce waste, prevent pollution and protect the stratospheric ozone layer.

The Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act and ***The Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Act*** are administered by the Branch. The Branch manages the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) established under Part 7 of ***The Sustainable Development Act*** and three of its broad allocation funding initiatives, including the SDIF Open Category, Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund and the Environmental Youth Corps (EYC).

The branch supports and participates in various departmental initiatives, including providing a staff member to serve as the campaign manager for the departmental All Charities Campaign and coordinating the department's efforts in the Commuter Challenge. Staff also participate on review committees for other departmental, provincial and federal grant funding programs.

The branch is also involved in various partnerships and initiatives with other government departments and external agencies.

Branch activities are divided into three program areas:

1. Waste Reduction and Prevention,
2. Pollution Prevention, and
3. Funding Programs

Waste Reduction and Prevention

The Branch develops policy and implements strategies and programming to reduce solid waste going to waste disposal grounds. Significant progress was made in developing and promoting sustainable alternatives to waste disposal.

Regulated programs developed under *the Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act* recycled 90,543 tonnes of material in 2006/07, including 11,753 tonnes of rubber from scrap tires, over 64,766 tonnes of packaging and paper from residences and 14,024 tonnes of used oil products. In addition to the materials being recycled by regulation, a thriving private sector recycling industry in Manitoba exists, that Statistics Canada says recycled 250,880 tonnes of material in 2002, the latest year for which information is available.

- Manitoba's waste diversion performance continues to improve as a result of its product stewardship initiatives, improved waste disposal system operation, increased organic waste composting and new waste reduction activities implemented by local government and the Institutional, Commercial and Industrial (ICI) sectors. Manitoba's waste reduction goal remains at 500 kgs per person of solid waste disposed at landfills, a 50% reduction over 1989 levels. According to Statistics Canada, in 2002 Manitobans disposed of 776 kgs of waste per person, while diverting 217 kgs of waste per person.

    - The Branch continued to focus on programs that aim to:
    - promote producer responsibility for post-consumer product management
    - encourage strategic public private sector partnerships to address environmental issues
    - reduce volume of waste generated and disposed; and
    - improve waste management facility operations and planning.

- The Branch continued to support the development of regional recycling networks throughout the province, and support and promote partnerships with non-government organizations to provide public information on waste reduction, composting, pollution prevention, green commuting and climate change.

    - The Branch emphasized the development of composting facilities by municipalities, on farm manure management and supported the promotion of backyard composting. Support for public environmental information services, alternative leachate management systems and waste transfer station developments were priority initiatives of the Branch.

    - In cooperation with Green Manitoba, staff continued to work to shift Manitoba's product stewardship approach to a regulated steward responsibility model. Focus is on four waste minimization priorities: tires, blue box materials, household hazardous waste, and waste from electronic products (e-waste). The regulatory basis of this model is the Used Oil, Oil Filters and Containers Stewardship Regulation under *The WRAP Act.*

    - In addition to these waste minimization priorities, surplus and obsolete ozone depleting substances have also been targeted for extended producer responsibilities to ensure for the proper management, collection and disposal of this waste material.

Multi-Material Recycling

- In 2006/07, the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC) paid out $7.8 million in Municipal Recycling Support Payments to recycling program operators. There was a small decline in the amount of material recycled from the previous year, which is attributed to the interruption in service in Western Manitoba when a processor went out of business. MPSC helped to recycle 64,766 Tonnes of material – the equivalent of 60.7 kgs per person. Further information on the MPSC is available at: www.mpsc.com

- The branch undertook an interdepartmental and public consultation of a new *Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation* under the WRAP Act. When adopted, this regulation will replace the Multi-Material Stewardship (Interim Measures) Regulation and a new industry association will replace the current MPSC Board. More details on the regulation are available at: www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention

- MPSC's school programming for public schools was transferred to Manitoba Education, Youth and Citizenship during FY 2006/07. Green Manitoba was awarded $75,000 from the WRAPP Fund to continue school programming for independent schools. A total of 65 independent schools applied to Green Manitoba for the $500 support for recycling activities - less than half the total eligible independent schools. As a result, half of the grant is being held in trust to support recycling activities in independent schools during the 2007/08 school year.

- Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM) was awarded $125,000 from the WRAPP Fund for Waste Reduction Services including continuation of the Environmental Speakers' Bureau, Waste Reduction Week activities, and compost workshops and education. More information on RCM's programs is available at: www.resourceconservation.mb.ca

    - The recovery of all but two categories of packaging and printed material increased for the 12th consecutive year. The category with a significant decrease is the amount of corrugated cardboard (OCC) collected by municipalities from the industrial/commercial and institutional sector. The overall decrease in recovered materials is due to the lower OCC recovery. A minor decrease was also seen in the #4, 5 & 7 rigid plastics category.

Table PP.1
Residential Recycling Statistics

Eligible Material Categories	Total Recycled 2005-2006 (kgs)	Total Recycled 2006-2007 (kgs)	Change from previous year	Average Kgs Recycled Per Manitoban (2006 pop. = 1,170,300)
Newspapers, Magazines, Flyers & Telephone Directories	34,660,113	34,747,628	87,515	29.69
Corrugated Cardboard (OCC)	11,727,434	9,148,516	-2,578,918	7.82
PET Plastics	2,091,393	2,162,710	71,317	1.85
4, 5, & 7 Rigid Plastics	940,335	905,960	-34,375	0.77
Glass Containers	5,336,095	5,430,166	94,071	4.64
Boxboard	5,398,023	5,496,882	98,859	4.70
Aluminum Cans	894,342	926,459	32,117	0.79
Metal Cans	2,551,157	2,567,909	16,752	2.19
Polycoat & Aseptic Containers	1,023,047	1,065,067	42,020	0.91
HDPE Containers	2,167,835	2,314,866	147,031	1.98
Total Eligible Materials	66,789,774	64,766,163	-2,023,611	55.34

Tire Recycling

- The Tire Stewardship Board's (TSB) Scrap Tire Recycling Program (established 1995) is funded by a $2.80 levy on new tires sold for licensed vehicles. The funds are used to support the collection, processing and recycling of scrap tires. Three processors recycled 1,295,528 PTEs (Passenger Tire Equivalents). A total of 842,170 car, light truck and medium truck tires were sold, with $2,358.076 in levies collected. Recyclers were paid $2,474,196 in credit incentives to recycle the equivalent of 1,295,528 passenger tires. An additional $11,250 was paid to Northern municipalities as an incentive to store tires appropriately for pickup. Further information on the TSB is available at: www.skyweb.ca/~mbtirebd/web.htm

- *Tire Stewardship Regulation, 2006,* a new regulation under *The WRAP Act*, was passed in November 2006 and a new industry association, Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM) began development of a program plan to manage scrap tires in Manitoba. TSM is an industry organization, which has representation from the Retail Council of Canada, The Rubber Association, The Manitoba Motor Dealers Association, and the Western Canada Tire Retailers and Retreaders Association. More information on the plan is available at www.rubberassociation.ca

Table PP.2
Products from Manitoba Scrap Tires in 2006/07

Product	PTEs	Percent of Total
Shred	630,950	48.7%
Moulded Products	373,595	28.8%
Tire-Derived Fuel	216,272	16.7%
Blasting Mats	53,171	4.1%
Truck sidewalls	21,540	1.7%
TOTAL PTEs Recycled	**1,295,528**	

Used Oil Recycling

- The *Used Oil, Oil Filters and Containers Stewardship Regulation* prohibits sale of lubricating oil products unless the vendor is registered and belongs to the stewardship program operated by Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corporation (MARRC). MARRC has 141 members, and as part of their membership agreement, vendors must pay Environmental Handling Charges based on product sales. In total, 53 Eco-Centres have been established in partnership with municipal governments and there are 21 privately operated depots.

- Purchases of lubricating products declined slightly from last year. Oil recovery grew slightly to 12.5 million litres of used oil out of 16.5 million litres available. Filter recovery grew to 1,630,000 filters of 1.93 million available. Container recovery increased slightly to 254,000 kg while 874,000 kgs are available. Total lubricating products recovered were 14,024 tonnes. Further information on MARRC is available at: www.usedoilrecycling.com

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

- In 2006/07, the responsibility for managing the contract with Miller Environmental Corporation to support household hazardous waste management was transferred to Green Manitoba, a Special Operating Agency of the Manitoba Government. More information on Green Manitoba is available at www.greenmanitoba.ca

- The branch undertook an interdepartmental consultation of two new regulations under the WRAP Act. The *Hazardous Household Material Stewardship Regulation* and the *Electrical and Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulation* would shift responsibility for managing targeted waste materials to new organizations to be established by industry stewards. Public consultation on the two draft regulations will follow.

Pollution Prevention

Pollution prevention is defined as the use of processes, practices, materials, products, substances or energy that avoids or minimizes the creation of pollutants and waste, and reduces the overall risk to the environment and human health.

- The Branch continued to work with, and provide information to a variety of government, academic, industry, and consumer organizations. The branch distributed technical and public education materials in support of branch and departmental program areas and promoted awareness of environmental issues at various workshops and tradeshows.

- The Manitoba Environmental Industries Association (MEIA) continued to be a key partner for the Branch, which provided grant funding to the organization for various initiatives and participated in workshops and activities.

- Branch staff represented Manitoba on the Canadian Council Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Pollution Prevention Network and participated on the review panel for the Pollution Prevention Awards and Recognition Program. The CCME awards program recognizes companies and organizations showing leadership in pollution prevention. Each year, award winners from small, medium and large businesses, organizations, developers of pollution prevention innovations, and organizations using greenhouse gas reduction initiatives are selected. In 2006, a micro business category was added to the Awards program, to better recognize the efforts of companies with 10 or fewer employees. Five companies, including two in the micro business category received awards at a gala ceremony at the annual Canadian Pollution Prevention Round Table in Halifax, Nova Scotia in June 2006. Additional details about the CCME Pollution Prevention Awards are available at: www.ccme.ca/initiatives/pollution.html

- Funding of $134,000 under the SDIF Open Category was awarded to showcase a zero-emission, fuel cell hybrid bus technology in an urban environment. The Hybrid Fuel Cell Bus Demonstration initiative was led by Hydrogenics and the Province of Manitoba, and it featured a series of operations in Winnipeg during August and September 2006. Winnipeg was chosen to be an ideal location to showcase the capabilities of fuel cell hybrid bus technology as Manitoba has a rich resource of hydroelectric and wind power to produce emissions-free, renewable hydrogen fuel.

Ozone Depleting Substances

- Staff continued participation on the Federal-Provincial Working Group (FPWG) on Ozone Depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives and met to consult on provincial and federal harmonization approaches for implementation of the National *Action Plan (NAP) for the Environmental Control of Ozone Depleting Substances and Their Halocarbon Alternatives*. The FPWG is responsible for developing Canada's National Action Plan (NAP) which outlines how ODS will be controlled, reduced and eliminated in Canada. The NAP was created to meet national and international commitments under the Montreal Protocol. The 2001 NAP approved by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) calls for the implementation new measures to eliminate the release of ODS and alternatives into the environment.

- Support continued for Refrigerant Management Canada (RMC), a national voluntary industry stewardship organization and its comprehensive halocarbon stewardship program for the proper management, collection and disposal of obsolete and surplus ODS. RMC accepted and processed 1,032,669 kgs of high and low pressure refrigerants and destroyed 873,091 kgs of refrigerant waste.

- The Heating and Refrigeration Air Conditioning Institute (HRAI) tracks the number of chillers in Canada that continue to operate on CFC refrigerants and the annual rate of conversions and replacements. From 2005 to 2006 the rate of conversion/replacement in Canada was 38.4% in 2005 and 42.5% in 2006.

- The Branch administered the Annual Appointment Agreement between Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA). The appointment allows MOPIA to undertake administrative tasks under the *Manitoba Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbon Regulation* and continue its role as a service provider in issuing permits and collecting fees. In 2006, 5,201 trained service technicians' certificates and 381 secondary distributor permits were issued, 55 Class 1 CFC Chiller permits and 85 Fixed Fire Extinguishing Permits were issued, and four certification training sessions were held. Further information on MOPIA is available at www.mopia.ca

- Staff continued to worked in cooperation with MOPIA on the implementation of new regulatory amendments to encourage the orderly transition from CFCs and Halons to alternative substances and technologies A series of industry information sessions on compliance and regulatory

requirements were held throughout Manitoba, and a review to revise and update Manitoba's environmental awareness training requirements for service technicians was initiated.

- Staff continued to work in partnership with MOPIA to analyze current practices and options to enhance recovery of ozone depleting substances from white goods in Manitoba for disposal.

Water Efficiency

- As a result of staff transfers in September 2005, Green Manitoba and Manitoba Water Stewardship have assumed responsibility for water efficiency initiatives. See www.greenmanitoba.ca or www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship

Funding Programs

The Branch manages and administers funding programs that support innovative solutions to environmental issues including the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) and its targeted broad allocations, including: SDIF Open Category, Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund and Environmental Youth Corps (EYC).

- Branch staff participated at the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN) 2006 National Conference, held in Gimli Manitoba. The CEGN a broad network of organizations that make environmental grants in Canada and provides a national format for information-sharing, collaboration and contributing towards expanding the scope and effectiveness of environmental grantmaking in Canada.

- Staff represented the department on the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative and assisted in planning and development of this program. The initiative brings together several departments including Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Health, and Conservation and is intended to promote healthy food choices and support the development of local food sources in northern Manitoba.

- A review of the SDIF's performance measurement criteria was initiated in partnership with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), in response to the Provincial Auditor General's report.

- Branch staff participated as member of the Green Building Policy for Government of Manitoba Funded Projects Interdepartmental Working Group. The SDIF Open Category awarded Green Manitoba with $121,900 to establish a Green Building Coordination Team to hold consultations on the new Green Building Policy and to coordinate the design, development and delivery of a Green Building Program.

Details on approved projects funded through the SDIF are provided in a separate *Annual Report* on the Fund, tabled in the Legislature. More information about the Fund is available at: www.susdev.gov.mb.ca

Table PP.3

12.4(i) Pollution Prevention

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	335.8	5.00	296.9	38.9	
Other Expenditures	92.6		92.1	0.5	
Total 12.4(i)	**428.4**	**5.00**	**389.0**	**39.4**	

Lands

The Branch is responsible for the management and control of provincial Crown lands that that are governed by ***The Crown Lands Act***. The Branch also has responsibility for wild rice under ***The Wild Rice Act***.

In addition, the Branch administers the Cottage Lot Initiative, Treaty Land Entitlement Program and Grants in Lieu of Taxes Program for the department.

Lands works closely with the Crown Lands and Property Agency, Regional Operations and other program branches of the department to review applications and other proposals or programs involving Crown land and wild rice. The reviews also involve other departments and agencies of the provincial, federal and municipal governments as well as First Nations and external organizations, depending on the type of application and location of the Crown land.

The objectives of the branch are:

- To incorporate the principles of sustainable development into its processes and activities.
- To develop policies and processes that are transparent to the public and provide fair and equal opportunities to all Manitobans in allocations of Crown land;
- To ensure the Province receives full value for the disposition of Crown land through sale or rental of Crown land.
- To facilitate delivery of the Treaty Land Entitlement, Northern Flood Agreement and other First Nations land settlements and programs.
- To provide a high level of service to government and the public.

Cottage Lot Initiative

- The Lands Branch, in conjunction with other areas in the department, has continued as an active participant in the delivery of the Cottage Lot Initiative which makes cottage lots available to Manitobans. Public draws were held in the spring and fall of 2006 bringing the total public draws under this initiative to six. The program has been extremely well received and supported by municipalities and communities throughout the province.

- New development not only enhances the quality of life for Manitobans by providing opportunities to enjoy Manitoba's natural beauty and cottage life, but it also provides considerable economic benefits to communities and municipalities. Benefits are derived from the initial construction of the infrastructure, as well as from cottage construction and ongoing local spending and tax contributions.

- Subdivision proposals go through extensive planning, review and approval processes to determine suitability of the sites before development actually begins. These processes ensure high standards are followed with respect to environmental, natural resource, sewage and waste disposal, servicing and other interests.

Cottage Lot Initiative key activities carried out in 2006/07:

- In 2006 two public draws were held for 1,308 cottage lots (including 374 new lots). In the two draws a total of 1,395 cottage lot applications were received, and there were an additional 236 new cottage lot owners.

- To date Manitoba has sold/leased over 58% of all lots offered.

- The Cottage Draw Information is available on the Conservation web site at http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/cottaging

Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs

Through the Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs Area and the Director, the Lands Branch of Manitoba Conservation continues to be responsible for Crown land planning, policy and program development with respect to non-agricultural Crown lands and wild rice.

- The Branch ensures due diligence and adherence to policy, procedure and regulation is carried out in the review and approval of applications for the disposition of Crown land as processed by the Crown Land and Property Agency.

- Effective April 1, 2006, the Crown Land and Property Agency assumed administration of 3071 permits and 635 leases, 610 Licences of Occupation, 1,137 easements and 319 Wild Rice Licences in accordance with The Crown Lands Act and the Wild Rice Act. Totals include 420 in application status of which 134 were received in 06/07 and are still under review. Administration also involves disposition management including, renewals, assignments, exchanges, collateral recordings and sales as well as maintenance of the Crown Land Registry System and Records vault.

The Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs area continues to be responsible for the preparation of various legal documents related to the fulfilment of Treaty Land Entitlement, other Aboriginal Land Claim settlement agreements and federal land transactions. These include issuance of Exclusive Use/Land Use Permits, Cabinet Submissions, Federal Transfers/Reversions of Administration and Control, Real Property Applications, Dissolving of Titles, and Fee Simple Transfers as specified in the respective settlement agreement, accuracy is essential due to the political sensitivity and high consequence of error.

- The unit is responsible for administration of Crown land programs and settlement agreements involving First Nations and Aboriginal communities and plays a key role in the negotiation and implementation of various agreements and programs involving Crown land. The section enjoys close and co-operative working relationships with First Nations and provides information, explanations and assistance to facilitate selections of Crown land and resolution of issues associated with selections. The section represents the Branch in the consultation process with First Nations and Aboriginal communities for Crown land proposals.

- Crown land related technical support and advisory services are provided to other branches and departments that are responsible for negotiation and delivery of agreements, claims and programs involving First Nations. Services include research, mapping, record keeping, technical advice and services related to the administrative land transfer requirements, agreements and any interests, encumbrances or legislative limitations that may affect availability of selected Crown lands.

- The primary responsibility of the section is the clearance and transfer of Crown land to Canada for entitlement First Nations under the *Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement*. A custom-designed computer GIS system known as TRELES was developed to manage the program. The system tracks and maps selections and acreages, records circulation responses, tracks and reports on issues associated with selections and resolutions to the issues, and generates status reports on demand. The section works closely with Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs, key activities carried out in 2006/07:

The section began preparation of ongoing operational procedures and service agreements with the newly formed Crown Land and Property Agency.

Review of in excess of 500,000 acres of Crown land selections for Treaty Land Entitlement and other land settlement agreements continue. To ensure all issues are addressed in accordance with the various settlement agreements, provincial departments and agencies are required to comment on the selections. The section then formulates a provincial position on each site in accordance with the appropriate agreement provisions and participates in discussions with Canada and the First Nations to resolve the conditions under which the lands would be available for transfer.

- The section participated in an all party committee to develop agreed forms for the transfer of lands between Canada and Manitoba and works with other branches and regions within the department to develop methods and procedures for the delivery of programs to ensure compliance with the terms of the Framework Agreement.

- All Crown land selections and private land acquisitions are cleared through the section prior to submission for approval by the department. In respect of acquisition lands, the Crown must ensure any residual interests held under legislation or as part of the land such as mines and minerals are dealt with appropriately prior to transfer.

Other programs and agreements the section is currently involved in includes: The Northern Flood Agreement, Grand Rapids Forebay Agreements, Community Association of South Indian Lake Land Transfer Agreement, other Northern Community proposed settlement agreements. land exchanges, and other land/flooding claims or treaty land entitlements. These agreements may include the transfer of land in fee simple to a corporation in addition to the transfer of land to Canada for Reserve purposes. The section currently administers 50 Exclusive Use Permits issued to TLE First Nations and 178 Land Use Permits issued to First Nations and Communities under their respective agreements.

Table LA.1

Treaty Land Entitlement Status – as of March 31, 2007

1997 TLE Framework Agreement First Nations	Crown Land Entitlement Acres	Crown Land Acres Selected by First Nations	Crown Land Available for Transfer Pending Completion of Survey by Canada	Survey Completed Land Transferred to Canada by Manitoba
Barren Lands	66,420	28,098		
Brokenhead	4,344	4,685	685	
Buffalo Point	3,432	2,647		2,370
Bunibonibee	35,434	35,727	15,739	14,368
Fox Lake	26,391	100		
Gods Lake	42,600	41,182	3,128	12,526
Manto Sipi	8,725	9,963	4,283	
Marcel Colomb	17,007			
Mathias Colomb	217,364	199,635	103,139	
Nisichawayasihk	61,935	72,990	14,089	12,925
Northlands	94,084	57,317		
Norway House	104,784	107,253	6,870	39,049
Opaskwayak	47,658	50,105	1,773	8,700
O-Pipon-Na-Piwin	17,500	35,127		
Rolling River	2,356	2,351		2,351
Sapotaweyak	108,134	113,706	30,132	70,030
Sayisi Dene	22,372			
Shamattawa	24,912	19,350		
War Lake	7,156	7,059		
Wuskwi Sipihk	44,168	45,304		23,469
York Factory	29,173	10,806		
TOTALS	985,949	843,405	179,838	185,788

1994 TLE Settlement Agreement First Nations	Crown Land Entitlement Acres	Crown Land Acres Selected	Crown Land Available for Transfer Pending Completion of Survey by Canada	Canada Survey Completed - Land Transferred to Canada
Garden Hill*	45,369	43,193		43,098
Red Sucker Lake	9,487	9,585		9,585
St. Theresa Point*	34,908	35,185		35,185
Wasagamack*	12,493	12,511		12,511
TOTAL	102,257	100,474		100,379

*Includes additional acres necessary to accommodate future public purpose requirement

2006/07 TLE Framework Agreement Activity

15,272 acres of selected Crown lands were approved by Manitoba for survey by Canada.

79,796 acres of selected Crown lands were transferred by Manitoba to Canada.

The unit was actively involved in Tri-Party meetings concerning approximately 350,000 acres of Crown land selections that are not approved for survey with a goal to expedite the process.

Table LA.2
12.4(j)1 Crown Lands Operations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	333.7	6.00	351.6	(17.9)	
Other Expenditures	2,337.7		2,389.3	(51.6)	
Total 12.4(j)1	**2,671.4**	**6.00**	**2,740.9**	**(69.5)**	

Crown Lands Registry

As of April 1, 2006 the maintenance of the Crown Land Registry and Crown Records was transferred to the Crown Land and Property Agency.

- In accordance with the Crown Lands Act the agency maintains secure and accurate records of current and historic dispositions of Crown land. Records of dispositions and all related documents are maintained in the computerized Crown Land Registry System. The records vault holds microfiche and paper files containing copies of agreements, documents, correspondence and other information related to each specific parcel of land.
- The Registry is the authoritative source of original grants of land and mineral interests from the Crown. This includes dispositions made by the Dominion Government prior to the transfer of natural resources to the province in 1930.

Remote Sensing and Land Mapping Services

Geomatics

Remote Sensing

Topographic Mapping

- Topographic mapping in the Cross Lake area has been completed. Severance and Parcel Boundaries have been added where applicable. Final stage of producing 125 .pdf files and hard copy products at a scale of 1:4000 are in the works.

- The Provincial 1:20,000 base mapping project has been completed. Project includes approximately 208 topologically geospatially structured 1:50,000 data sets of southern Manitoba of which all are available on the Manitoba Land Initiative web site.

- Seamless datasets were created for all seven layers of topographic data within the1:20,000 provincial base mapping project.

- Work is continuing on the 1:50,000 agreement with NRCAN (Natural Resources Canada) for the updating and vectorizing of their 1:50,000 datasets from landsat 7 satellite imagery. A total of 31 sheets were completed in the fiscal.

- Negotiations have been completed with the Federal Government and an update of the National Road Network and the National Hydrographic Network will be made available in the year 08/09.

- 43 Treaty Land Entitlement Parcels are in the process of being compiled with 3D vector data.

- Contours have been produced for all regions except the southeast of the province from our digital elevation model data.

Manitoba Geographical Names Program

- A local Island Lake resident completed his research on local names in the Island Lake area and published the location and origin data for educational and historical purposes. Research assistance was provided to this researcher and must now be followed up to confirm the accuracy of his research and prepare decision lists to record and approve, where applicable, these new toponyms.

- Work continued with Natural Resources Canada to upgrade Manitoba's digital toponymic data records through Natural Resources Canada's Quality Control and Name Delineation (QCAND) web application. QCAND provides Manitoba the opportunity to spatially delineate Manitoba's toponyms. Spatially referencing toponyms provides a user friendly, simple visual representation of how geographical names are applied to entire geographical features such as lakes, rivers, bays, hills, etc. Toponyms have historically been stored as point data only. This project will now store toponyms as polygon data.

- Staff continued to research and approve official name decisions on behalf of the Minister of Conservation, who is responsible for Manitoba geographical names. These decisions and research enhance the Manitoba Geographical Names Data Base (MGNDB) which contains all current and archival toponyms (geographical names) and provides a means for its timely distribution through automated information systems, maps, brochures, gazetteers, and commemorative name certificates.

- Volunteer staff assisted in the preparation of special commemorative name certificates for the Battle of the Atlantic Day Remembrance Ceremony held on May 7th, 2006. The program researched the geographical features and the biographical information for the twelve Manitobans who lost their lives on the HMCS *Ottawa*.

- The service related to the dissemination of geographical name information to all Manitobans regarding the correct spelling, usage, origin of names, and, in particular, to government departments and agencies for support of a vital toponymic quality control service for government maps, signs, and other documentation was maintained.

- Liaison with the Geographical Names Board of Canada was maintained regarding name decisions, revisions of principles and procedures, and to ensure provincial interests and concerns are identified, evaluated, and considered in provincial, federal, and international decision-making processes.

Remote Sensing

- The Remote Sensing section provides earth observation services and related geo-spatial information from a range of air-craft and space-craft platforms to derive insight, evaluation and assessment of the natural and physical resources of Manitoba.
- This information helps to support natural resource management and environmental monitoring activities within the Department and other Government of Manitoba agencies.

- The Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre (MRSC) processed NOAA/AVHRR satellite data for the Canadian World Crop Monitoring Program, the Canadian Global Change Program, and Parks Canada, covering all of Canada, using GEOCOMP satellite image processing. Cloud-free image composites were created every 10 days between April 1 and October 31, 2005. In addition, 25 weekly (7 Day) composites were created between April 18 and October 9, 2005 for the Agriculture Division of Statistics Canada and their crop monitoring program.

- The MRSC in conjunction with the Forestry Branch and in cooperation with the Canadian Forest Service-Earth Observation for Sustainable Development (EOSD) of Forests project continued the forest land cover data for Manitoba using satellite data to meet core forest information needs of the Kyoto Protocol, the international Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. This was the third year of the project with work being carried out on the Boreal Shield and Boreal Plains using Landsat satellite imagery.

- The MRSC, in partnership with Canadian Forest Service, delineated and mapped a sampling of the deforestation events that have occurred throughout Manitoba using Landsat satellite imagery spanning several years. The result is a key element for reporting to Environment Canada, the agency responsible for coordinating National Carbon Budget Data to meet reporting commitments.

Land Mapping Services

The primary function of this section is to develop and maintain province wide digital property parcel cadastral data. The developed digital land parcel data forms a fundamental component of a province-wide, multi-purpose information system. Its goal is to provide provincial land data users with a means of spatially referencing their own land data records such as infrastructure, assessment, ownership and land use, to a common, geo-referenced, land parcel base that is timely, precise and homogeneous.

- More than 20,736 land parcels were added to the province's MLI Data Warehouse. This included new parcel data sets for the seven communities of Neepawa, Minnedosa, Crystal City, Pilot Mound, Wawanesa, Carberry and Rosenort as part of parcel mapping service provided to Community Planning Branch of Intergovernmental Affairs and Forestry Branch's Dutch Elm Disease program. A significant achievement this fiscal year was completion of full parcel mapping coverage for three provincial rural municipalities - Rural Municipality of Cartier, Rural Municipality of Ste. Anne and Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach - some 11 townships in all.

- The section created conceptual cottage lot subdivision design plans for 18 sites for the 2006/07 Manitoba Cottage Lot Initiative on behalf of Crown Lands. Six approved designs out of this group formed an integral part of the 2005 Spring and Fall public draws for provincial cottage lots the balance

are under planning review or awaiting field survey. Those approved and finalized will form part of the forthcoming 2006 draws.

- The section continues to dedicate its efforts to development of a seamless digital Manitoba land reference grid which includes a fully topologically structured parcel based approximation of the Dominion Land Survey township/range quarter-section system in southern Manitoba. This product is deemed essential for meeting departmental and public sector requirements for a general purpose grid that will support land referencing and spatial referencing needs on several levels from thematic mapping to Geographic Information System application development. The section supports the cause by creating and maintaining the relevant map files as well as computing coordinates for the DLS township framework markers where they have been tied to provincial survey control networks.

  15 townships plus updating of the capital region area were completed by our cadastral mapping section (parcel mapping) along with many parcel plan for the Cottage Lot program.

Table LA.3
12.4(j)2 Remote Sensing and Land Mapping Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,059.7	19.00	1,160.8	(101.1)	1.
Other Expenditures	394.5		274.9	119.6	2.
Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	0.0		(23.7)	23.7	3.
Total 12.4(j)2	**1,454.2**	**19.00**	**1,412.0**	**42.2**	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to higher than anticipated vacant positions.
2. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to litigation settlement.
3. There were no costs recoverable from other appropriations in 2006/07.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP DIVISION

Divisional Administration

The Divisions administration manages and facilitates development by the branches of legislation, policies, plans, licenses and programs to sustainably manage natural resources and the environment.

Administration responsibilities include:

- Providing leadership to the Directors in the Division
- Ensuring that Division responsibilities are executed in an effective, efficient manner
- Recruiting Directors when necessary
- Representing the division on the Department's executive
- Representing the Department on boards and commissions
- Ensuring effective budgetary management
- Communicating executive policy direction to the Division

Environmental Stewardship Division comprised:

- Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch
- Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch
- Aboriginal Relations Branch
- Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO)

Table ES.1
12.5(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	164.2	2.00	172.0	(7.8)	
Other Expenditures	256.9		66.6	190.3	1.
Northern Initiatives	246.0		250.0	(4.0)	
Grant Assistance	118.9		125.3	(6.4)	
Total 12.5(a)	**786.0**	**2.00**	**613.9**	**172.1**	

1. Increase in Other Expenditures is due to grant funding paid to the Tire Stewardship Board.

Sustainable Resource and Policy Management

Description:

The Branch coordinates and integrates departmental policy, natural resource allocation Crown land use planning, and legislative development and interpretation, in accordance with the principles and guidelines of sustainable development. The Branch is responsible for the administration of *The Sustainable Development Act*. The Branch assists management to improve the effectiveness of departmental programming, provides planning and policy assistance to local planning authorities, administers licensing of resource-based tourism facilities, and represents the department on issues related to internal and international trade agreements, as well as national forums for governmental cooperation. The branch also provides support on communication issues, and prepares ministerial correspondence.

Key Results Achieved:

- Manitoba Conservation administered 25 statutes and 97 regulations.
- The Branch provided a strategic and systematic approach for the Department to work with other governments on environment and natural resource issues, and contributed to a strong role and voice in national discussions on environmental protection in Canada.
- The Branch provided secretariat support to the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development, a 32 member advisory body to the provincial government chaired by the Minister of Conservation. The Round Table provides advice and support to decision makers, and has committees on Agriculture, Climate Change and Alternative Energy, Green Buildings, Waste, and Water. The Round Table also awarded two scholarships to recognize and encourage post-secondary student achievements that incorporate the principles of sustainable development.
- The Branch provided planning and policy analysis support to the Crown Lands ADMs Committee. The Branch, in conjunction with regional Bloc Planning Committees, maintained and administered a system of operational land use coding on Crown land, and prepared Crown Land Plans. The Branch also administered the Committee's system for the review of Crown land sale appeals and the designation of Crown lands, and maintained the committee's policy and procedures manual.
- The Branch assisted municipalities and Planning Districts in the preparation of development plans and zoning by-laws by coordinating preparation of departmental advice and information on planning, management and use of natural resources, and responding to requests for studies, maps, and statistical compilations required to properly allocate resources.
- The Branch provides the secretariat for the Licensing Advisory Committee (LAC). The Committee, comprising Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Manitoba Water Stewardship, makes recommendations to the Administrator of Resource Tourism on the licensing of outfitters and their services, and the permitting of their associated facilities, for the purposes of hunting, fishing and ecotourism activities. About 1,425 licences and/or permits were issued last year. The Branch also serves as secretariat to the Resource Tourism Appeals Committee, which provides an appeal mechanism for operators wishing to appeal a decision of the Administrator of Resource Tourism.
- The Branch administered the Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund.

Key Program Outputs:

Legislation

- Amendments to *The Dangerous Goods and Handling and Transportation Act* were passed by the Manitoba Legislature, received Royal Assent and became effective on June 13, 2006.

- The Tire Stewardship Regulation, 2006 was registered on November 14, 2006.

- 24 amending regulations were registered during the reporting period, amending 16 existing regulations including:
  - an amendment to the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation and the Classes of Development Regulation and two amendments to the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation under *The Environment Act*
  - three amendments to the Designation of Provincial Forests Regulation under *The Forest Act*
  - an amendment to the Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation under *The Ozone Depleting Substances Act*
  - an amendment to the Park Activities Regulation, the Park Fees Regulation and two amendments to the Park Reserves Designation Regulation under *The Provincial Parks Act*
  - an amendment to each of the Designation of Wildlife Lands Regulation, the Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits Regulation, and the Wildlife Fees and Royalties Regulation, and two amendments to each of the Threatened, Endangered and Extirpated Species Regulation, the Use of Wildlife Lands Regulation, the General Hunting Regulation, and the Trapping of Wild Animals Regulation under *The Wildlife Act*
  - an amendment to the Provincial Snowmobile Trail Regulation under *The Crown Lands Act*

- More detail regarding the 26 legislative and regulatory initiatives identified above may be found in those sections of this report that provide program-specific descriptions of activities undertaken during the reporting period.

Intergovernmental Affairs and Strategic Policy

- Support was provided to the Minister and Deputy Minister in their official activities representing Manitoba in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment forum (CCME).

- The Branch worked cooperatively with other Canadian jurisdictions and the CCME Secretariat to coordinate and advance environmental management issues across Canada.

- Support was provided to the Minister as a member of the Governmental Committee for Canada's representation on the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

- The Branch participated as Manitoba's representative on the following intergovernmental committees:
  - North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (Canada Implementation Working Committee and Canada Implementation Senior Officials Committee)
  - CCME committees, including the Environmental Protection and Planning Committee and as co-chair of the Environmental Assessment Committee, and the Water Agenda Development Committee.

- The Branch represented the department in trade matters related to the Agreement on Internal Trade, NAFTA and GATT/WTO agreements, including representing the department in development and implementation of the Processing of Natural Resources chapter of the Agreement on Internal Trade, coordinating activities associated with implementation of NAFTA, monitoring trade developments in

resource issues, and liaising with other departments and jurisdictions on trade matters involving resources.

- Assistance was provided in developing a new 5-year agreement and annual workplan with the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

- The Branch provided support and conducted liaison on the government's climate change, water stewardship and Green Manitoba activities.

- The Branch assisted with international projects in China and South Africa.

Sustainable Development Implementation

- The Manitoba Round Table met three times during the year.

- Scholarships were awarded to two students in Manitoba – one for graduate research on biosystems engineering in the hog industry, the other for undergraduate studies that reflect a commitment to the principles of sustainable development.

Crown Lands Policy and Planning

- Submissions were prepared for the Crown Lands ADMs Committee respecting the following proposed Crown land designations by order-in-council :
    - Whitemouth Bog Ecological Reserve
    - Whitemouth Bog Wildlife Management Area
    - Great Gray Owl Provincial Park
    - Whitemouth Falls Provincial Park Boundary Adjustment
    - Delta Marsh Wildlife Management Area
    - Observation Point Wildlife Management Area

- 28 Crown land sale appeal reports were prepared for the consideration of the Crown Lands ADMs Committee, along with a number of submissions respecting Crown land policy application, interpretation of land use classifications and establishing new classifications.

- Advice and support were provided to the Protected Areas Initiative and related activities including discussions and development of an agreement with the City of Winnipeg.

- A policy paper respecting the use and allocation of Crown lands for the purposes of wind energy developments was coordinated, and the Branch participated in the development of a rent and royalty structure for wind farms on Crown land.

- A departmental review of the issues, policy and legislation with respect to All Terrain Vehicle use on Crown land was initiated.

- A paper regarding the circulation of Crown land applications to First Nations was prepared.

- A review of policy and procedures respecting the review of wild rice Crown land applications in regards to the application of section 35(1) of *The Fisheries Act* (Canada) was undertaken.

- The Branch also continued to build the Crown land use classification GIS database for southern Manitoba. The database is about 90% complete for southern Manitoba.

Municipal and First Nation Land Planning

- The branch coordinated the departmental review of:
  - 638 proposed land subdivisions (Red River Region only)
  - 106 proposed municipal zoning by-laws and amendments
  - 71 proposed development plans and amendments, and
  - 18 other proposed municipal land related issues.

- The latest revision of those Provincial Land Use Policies for which Manitoba Conservation is the lead department was coordinated.

- The interdepartmental review of the Asatiwisipe Aki Management Plan of the Poplar River First Nation was coordinated.

Licensing Advisory Committee

- Approximately 1,425 licences and/or permits were issued to lodge operators and outfitters.

Table SR.1
12.5(b) Sustainable Resource and Policy Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	876.3	20.00	1,254.4	(378.1)	1.
Other Expenditures	152.5		272.5	(120.0)	2.
Grant Assistance	10.2		10.2	0.0	
Total 12.5(b)	**1,039.0**	**20.00**	**1,537.1**	**(498.1)**	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to higher than anticipated vacant positions.
2. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to reduced operating costs as a result of vacancies.

Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch

The Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch is responsible for administration of *The Environment Act*, *The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act*, *The Public Health Act*, *The Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation* and *The Pesticides Regulation*. Specifically, the branch ensures that:

- The potential environmental impacts of development proposals are minimized;
- The public is provided with adequate opportunities to review and comment on proposals filed under *The Act*;
- The environmental assessment process in Manitoba is fair, consistent, and transparent;
- Municipal, industrial, and hazardous wastes are controlled;
- Environmental and health impacts of pesticides are minimized; and,
- All water and wastewater treatment and distribution facilities are operated by competent, licensed operators in order to protect public health and the environment.

The Branch also represents the department at Clean Environment Commission hearings, provides regulatory expertise to stakeholders, provides recommendations to the Minister on a wide variety of environmental issues, responds to public complaints and enquiries, conducts inspection and enforcement action for developments, participates on inter-departmental committees and on national committees, and maintains a current web site to provide the public information about the branch activities.

Key Results achieved:

Objective	Result
Process 45 development proposals, ensuring license conditions protect the environment and public health	• Over 60 development proposals were reviewed and processed under *The Environment Act*; • 10 proposals were processed under *The Transportation of Dangerous Goods and Handling Act*. • Over 40 license alterations were reviewed and processed. • Total of 110 licenses were issued or altered. • 5 licenses were approved for new wind farms; all licenses require bird and bat mortality monitoring. • The branch web site was brought up to date to improve opportunities for the public to participate in development proposals. • Branch capability was increased for evaluating the environmental impacts of air emissions, including assessment and management of greenhouse gas emissions. • Follow up inspections were carried out (see inspection section below) have indicated that license conditions are adequate to protect the environment and public health.
Issue 200 Pesticide Use Permits and monitor compliance with the pesticide regulation	• 223 pesticide applications were received and processed. Actions are ongoing in 2007/08 to follow up with respect to enforcement for organizations that did not apply for permits. • 220 post-seasonal reports were processed.
Implement the new Water and Wastewater facility	• Implementation of the new Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation was largely complete and fully operationalized. • Between 85-90% of operators were certified under the new regulation. • In fiscal year 2006/07, 833 exams were administered, 988 facility applications were reviewed and certified, and 599 operator certificates were issued. • The branch will continue to implement the program in 2007/08 by making presentations to stakeholders, facilitating exams, classifying facilities and processing requests for operator certifications.
Resolve environmental issues; ensure compliance with Acts and Regulations	• The Classes of Development Regulation was amended to remove the exemption for temporary asphalt and concrete batch plants. Additional developments were defined to address emerging technologies such as biodiesel & ethanol plants. • The Canada – Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation was signed by both the federal Minister of Environment and the Minister of Conservation. • Technical support was provided to the province-wide assessment of the sustainability of the hog industry.

Objective	Result
	• The development of a national Municipal Wastewater Strategy was supported in accordance with direction from the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. The development of this strategy is a joint effort of all regulatory jurisdictions in Canada. Consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders is ongoing. • Represented the department on the Canada-wide Environmental Administrators group. • Co-sponsored a workshop with the federal Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency on environmental assessment process.
Conduct 100 inspections and/or review of document submitted as conditions of licenses.	• Over 155 enforcement actions were taken, including site inspections, monitoring, and review and approval of technical reports. • Inspected a wide variety of developments, including wastewater facility liners, waste disposal grounds, crop storage and other agricultural developments, construction activities on the Floodway and Wuskwatim projects (both licensed in 2005/06 fiscal year), manufacturing sites and wind farms.
Respond to public concerns in all aspects of environment, process,and hearings	• Represented the department at the November, 2006, Clean Environment Commission hearing for the Pembina Valley Water proposal. • Responded to over 100 public enquiries and/or complaints/and/or concerns. This was done through attendance at public meetings, through letter correspondence and/or through provision of material. • Modified the branch web site in response to public comments about accessing materials. The branch receives over 40,000 hits to the site each month and has received positive feedback about the site's improvements. • Served on the West Nile Virus Committee and Mosquito Control Committee (in conjunction with Manitoba Health).

Table EA.1

12.5(c) Environmental Assessment and Licensing

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,103.1	16.00	1,078.2	24.9	
Other Expenditures	255.4		249.4	6.0	
Total 12.5(c)	**1,358.5**	**16.00**	**1,327.6**	**30.9**	

Aboriginal Relations

The Branch was established to build the relationship between the Department and the Aboriginal people of Manitoba. It is necessary to maintain this level of commitment in order to effectively work together to meet the requirements of the Aboriginal community and Manitoba Conservation.

In providing leadership and direction for the Department on aboriginal issues, the Branch participates in strategic planning processes, such as the development of policies, legislation, and programs ensure that Aboriginal and Treaty rights are recognized and respected. The Branch participates in the research, analysis, development, implementation and evaluation of new and existing resource programs. The Branch is also

engaged in development of integrated resource policies, legislation relating to land use, co-management, resource allocation, environmental impacts, sustainable development initiatives, and enforcement. As well, the Branch facilitates communication between the various user interests and the Department and provides support to the Manitoba Model Forest.

The Branch continues to play an instrumental role in developing a policy on consultation with First Nations people. It is the intent that the consultation policy will be reviewed with First Nations prior to being finalized. The Branch has also taken a lead role in facilitating dialogue between the Aboriginal community and the Department. A significant portion of the branch's resources are devoted to managing the Province's participation in the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin and to assisting the administration of the initiative (see description below).

The following key activities were carried out in 2006/07.

General Activities

- Provided an Aboriginal perspective on natural resource management programs, and drafted an Aboriginal Policy for the department.
- Met with the Aboriginal community to identify respective concerns and issues, and assisted in developing action plans to resolve Aboriginal community issues.
- Provided direction for the Department and Aboriginal community in natural resource management programs and issues.
- Participated in discussions and negotiations to develop a formal agreement for managing natural resources.
- Provided educational information through varied media to the Department, Aboriginal, and non-Aboriginal communities.
- Attended meetings and gatherings in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and with the various users of natural resources.
- Created and fostered partnerships with Aboriginal communities that will build positive relationships in terms of program development, advocacy and capacity building.
- Responded to inquiries from the Department, resource users, public and educational institutions.

Specific Activities

- Participated in meaningful consultation with those people whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by Wuskwatim Generation Station and Transmission Line Projects; Louisiana Pacific Forest Management Plan; and the Southern Hardwood Development Project/First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership Forest Management Licence. Aboriginal Relations Branch participated as members of the Crown Consultation Teams and the Crown Consultation Steering Committees.
- Continued to advance the need for a policy review to recognize the interest of First Nation people in the use and disposition (sale and lease) of Crown land.
- Reviewed and commented on Crown land applications and sale lists.
- Continued to participate in development of co-management agreements with Opaskwayak Cree Nation and the West Region Tribal Council.
- Continued to facilitate meetings and dialogue between licensed resource users and Aboriginal resource users.
- Discussed with Aboriginal leaders a dialogue forum and communication process between the Department and Manitoba Aboriginal communities.
- Provided leadership to the Manitoba Model Forest in the development of a new five-year funding program with Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Services.
- Participated in various Treaty Day Celebrations, First Nation and other Aboriginal community events with the Aboriginal Relations Branch display booth.
- Established working partnership with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Center and the Fur Institute of Canada to develop a land based curriculum entitled *Reconnecting to the Land* that will implemented with the Fisher River Cree Nation.
- Continued to manage the Department's participation in the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin initiative and provide substantial support to the administration of the initative.

Table AR.1

12.5(d) Aboriginal Relations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	285.0	4.00	269.7	15.3	
Other Expenditures	167.6		148.9	18.7	
Total 12.5(d)	**452.6**	**4.00**	**418.6**	**34.0**	

Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin

The Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Planning Initiative ensures that future land, resource and development decisions address the environmental, social, health, cultural, and economic needs of First Nations, the public, local communities, and various stakeholders and interest groups in the area on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

Key Results Achieved:

- The Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Secretariat coordinated the WNO Planning Initiative by providing administrative, planning and research support to its principal bodies, the WNO Council and the WNO Council of Chiefs.

Key Program Outputs:

- The WNO Council of Chiefs was incorporated under *The Corporations Act* to enable the 16 First Nation communities within the WNO planning area receive and administer funding to develop land use plans for their respective traditional territories. The WNO Inc. will lead and manage the traditional area land use planning initiative with assistance from the WNO Secretariat.

- A Transfer Payment Agreement was completed which set out the terms and conditions under which the Province would provide $500,000.00 annually for 5 years to the WNO Inc for traditional area land use planning.

- A Request For Proposal was released, soliciting proposals to develop an overall strategy to raise funds (over and above the Province's commitment) to enable First Nation communities within the WNO Planning Area undertake traditional area use planning. A candidate was selected and a fund raising strategy package nears completion.

- The concept of establishing 3 to 4 Regional Resource Management Boards (RRMBs), to provide communities immediate and direct say in activities that might take place in their respective traditional territories, was positively received by the WNO and the WNO Council of Chiefs. Additional discussions have taken place with the northern Cree communities of Bunibonibee, Manto Sipi and God's Lake First Nations and the Island Lake communities of Garden Hill, Red Sucker Lake, St. Theresa Point and Wasagamack First Nations.

- An Accord entitled Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Council Of Chiefs Accord neared completion. The Accord is intended to confirm a government-to-government relationship between the WNO First Nation

governments and the Government of Manitoba, reinforce the foundation for traditional area land use planning, and assist in the establishment of RRMBs.

- An Expression of Interest was sought from individuals and/or firms having the potential to offer services that would assist communities develop traditional area land use plans. A major focus of the request asked for details as too how an individual or firm might assist in helping communities develop their own capacities to provide long term job benefits (i.e. training in areas of traditional area research, GIS application and mapping, project implementation and monitoring, etc.).

- The preparation of the Broad Area Plan and discussions on the Protocol Agreement between First Nation Governments within the planning area and the Province of Manitoba, remain on-going.

Table WA.1

12.5(e) Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	865.9		1,127.8	(261.9)	1.
Total 12.5(e)	**865.9**		**1,127.8**	**(261.9)**	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to reduced meeting and travel related costs as a result of the negotiated Protocol of Agreement.

International Institute for Sustainable Development

The Institute promotes the concept of environmentally sustainable economic development and the integration of the principles and practices of sustainable development within and between the public, private and voluntary sectors on a national and international basis.

The Institute issues a separate Annual Report. Copies can be obtained from the Institute at 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y4. The Institute can be contacted at 204-958-7700.

Table IISD.1

12.6 International Institute for Sustainable Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	1,195.9		1,195.9	0.0	
Total 12.6	**1,195.9**		**1,195.9**	**0.0**	

Minor Capital Projects

Equipment

Departmental programs were supported by purchasing equipment and paying for minor infrastructure. Funding was allocated for computer hardware, office renovations, and equipment.

Table IM.1
12.7(a) Equipment

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	357.1		430.4	(73.3)	
Total 12.7(a)	**357.1**		**430.4**	**(73.3)**	

Critical Heritage Marshes

The Heritage Marsh Program incorporates marshes known to be of extraordinary importance to the well being of wildlife and people. Eight Heritage Marshes are formally recognized (Saskeram, Summerberry, Delta, Oak Hammock, Rat River, Grants Lake, Proven Lake, and Lidcliff), and an additional 19 have been identified as candidate marshes.

- Support continued for research on the ecological health and future of Delta Marsh. Recognized locally and internationally as an important prairie wetland, the marsh ecosystem has undergone significant changes, in part due to relatively constant water levels brought on by the regulation of water levels on Lake Manitoba. Marshlands require a natural water regime that includes wet and drought cycles to maintain their biodiversity. Studies to examine the impacts of carp on marsh ecosystems and vegetation studies were carried out in partnership with the University of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

- A one-day workshop to share the results of research into carp at Delta Marsh was held at the Freshwater Institute in January 2007. A broadly based technical committee was formed to study various means of addressing the management challenges affecting the marsh.

- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch was successful in an application for $150,000.00 from Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) which was used to acquire three parcels of land for inclusion in the Delta Marsh WMA.

- The range of purple loosestrife, an introduced wetland species, continues to expand, threatening important marsh ecosystems. The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project team is chaired by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and includes Ducks Unlimited Canada and the City of Winnipeg. Objectives are to control purple loosestrife through research, management, and expansion of biological control programs. Approximately 25,000 beetles were raised and released as a biological control measure in 2006.

Table IM.2
12.7(b) Critical Heritage Marshes

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	119.8		120.0	(0.2)	
Total 12.7(b)	**119.8**		**120.0**	**(0.2)**	

Park Facilities

Description

Parks and Natural Areas branch endeavours to extend the life and capacity of provincial park infrastructure and enhance recreational opportunities through upgrading, improvement and development of park facilities. Environmental protection in provincial parks is enhanced through the installation and construction of appropriate facilities for the treatment of water and sewage, and the disposal of garbage. Campgrounds and other park areas are enhanced to meet park users' needs and promote attraction to users. Park facilities are upgraded through this program in conjunction with Capital Assets and the camping budgets.

Key Results Achieved

- Constructed waterfront at Falcon Lake as integral part of the Falcon Lake Townsite Redevelopment project
- Initiated redevelopment of wastewater treatment facilities for Big Whiteshell, Birds Hill and Hecla.
- Enhanced flood protection at Spruce Woods through road construction.
- Developed yurts at Spruce Woods, Asessippi, Clearwater Lake (Campers Cove), and Bakers Narrows campgrounds.
- Campground redevelopment and electrification of campsites were completed at West Hawk, Grand Beach and Falcon Lakeshore campgrounds. Additional electrification of campsites at Falcon Beach, New Nutimik, Asessippi, Childs Lake, and Spruce Woods was also undertaken.
- The Winnipeg Beach sea wall was fortified and railing was constructed to enhance visitor safety.

Table IM.3
12.7(c) Park Facilities

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	2,389.7		2,369.3	20.4	
Total 12.7(c)	2,389.7		2,369.3	20.4	

Cottaging and Camping Initiatives

As part of the Provincial Camping Initiative, improvements and infrastructure upgrades were made to various campgrounds throughout the Province. Under delivery of the Provincial Cottaging Initiative, the program saw the development of cottage lots, and continued to make lots available to Manitobans through two cottage lot draws.

Table IM.4
12.7(d) Cottaging and Camping Initiatives

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	Estimate 2006/07 FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	767.8		850.0	(82.2)	
Total 12.7(d)	**767.8**		**850.0**	**(82.2)**	

Costs Related to Capital Assets

The Department expended the annual amortization costs of all completed assets based on the useful life of each asset. Assets purchased or constructed in 2006/07 were expended at one-half the annual amortization rate. The amortization expense also included the portion of corporate information technology projects attributable to the Department.

Table ACA.1
12.8 Costs Related to Capital Assets

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Estimate 2006/07		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
(a) Desktop Services					
(1) Amortization Expense - Transition	130.5		130.6	(0.1)	
(2) Enterprise Software Licenses	217.8		218.6	(0.8)	
(b) General Assets					
(1) Amortization Expense	1,246.9		1,243.2	3.7	
(2) Interest Expense	485.6		454.0	31.6	
(c) Infrastructure Assets					
(1) Amortization Expense	1,967.1		2,161.0	(193.9)	
(2) Interest Expense	1,925.9		2,060.7	(134.8)	
Total 12.8	**5,973.8**		**6,268.1**	**(294.3)**	

The in-year cost of acquiring capital assets or assets under construction is provided through Part B - Capital Investment for which amortization and interest expense is reflected as a departmental operating expense. Part B - Capital Investment is highlighted in the following section.

PART B – GENERAL ASSETS

B.4 Capital Investment - General Assets provides for the refurbishment and upgrade of facilities and the acquisition of machinery and equipment.

Machinery and equipment purchases included one outdoor wood burning circulating heat, one snowmobile groomer, two fuel tanks, one infra red scanner used to detect underground fires, five industrial mowers, one boat with motor and trailer, one radio repeater tower, one Huib hydraulic arm truck mount, and a diesel tractor with hitch for Regional Operations and Conservation Programs.

Projects included implementation of the Parks Reservation System, Polar Bear Facility Expansion and Upgrade, Island Lake Fire Warehouse repairs, Photo Lab Regeneration, Lac du Bonnet Roof repairs, Island Lake Fire Warehouse repairs, and EMS system upgrade.

Table GA.1
Part B.4 General Assets

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
B.4	1,888.0		1,596.0	(292.0)	1.
Enabling Appropriation re: Internal Reform Allocation			292.0	292.0	2.
Total B.4	**1,888.0**		**1,888.0**	**0.0**	

1. The following projects/purchases were completed in 2006/07:
   - Parks Reservation Service Phase 3
   - 2 fuel tanks
   - Upgrade of Polar Bear Holding Facility
   - EMS System Upgrade
   - Lac du Bonnet Roof Repairs
   - Purchase of 1 tractor
   - Purchase of 5 mowers
   - Upgrade of Island lake fire warehouse
   - Regeneration of Photo lab
   - Purchase of 1 Snowmobile groomer
   - Purchase of Outdoor woodburning circulating heat
   - Purchase of 1 Hiub Hydraulic Arm

2. The Department accessed Internal Reform funding for the additional project costs and purchases of the following projects:

   Lac Du Bonnet Roof Repairs

   Parks Reservation Service – Phase 3 and 4 EMS Module

PART B – CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Infrastructure Assets

Infrastructure Asset purchases and acquisitions in 2006/07 included:

- Major Environmental Upgrades (Wastewater, Water Systems and/or Solid Waste) were in progress at Birds Hill, Big Whiteshell, Hecla, Moose lake, and West Hawk.

- Spruce Woods Provincial Park Road construction and flood proofing was initiated this year to prevent interruptions in business operations brought by flood. Second phase of the project is on-going to complete the dike and road work and to replace the old control structure.

- Provincial Camping Lite Program (Yurts) was completed in Asessipi, Bakers and Clearwater Provincial Parks while Spruce Woods is still in progress. A total of 14 yurts were installed while additional 4 yurts are still to be added in Spruce Woods.

- In conjunction with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, a large modern washroom was completed at Blue Lake in Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

- Emergency repairs on Winnipeg Beach Seawall along Lake Winnipeg was completed in conjunction with Manitoba Water Stewardship.

- Falcon Townsite Development was completed during the year. This includes the completion of the community pier/boat dock and market plaza which was started in 2005/06.

- Several Upgrades on Campground were initiated this year to support "The New Camping Initiative" as announced by the Premier which includes the West Hawk, Grand Beach, and Falcon Lakeshore Upgrades. Upgrades on these campgrounds are still in progress.

- Construction of Birds Hill Shower Building was initiated this year to meet the current demands and to improve park facilities.

Table CI.1

Part B.13 Infrastructure Assets

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2006/07 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2006/07 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
13(a) Parks Infrastructure Projects	3,873.7		4,445.0	(571.3)	1.
13(b) Camping Improvements	737.1		2,045.0	(1,307.9)	2.
13(c) Cottage Lots Development	2,772.8		4,300.0	(1,527.2)	3.
Total B.13	**7,383.6**		**10,790.0**	**(3,406.4)**	

1. Some Infrastructure projects were delayed due to environmental approval process delays and construction estimate delays. Also, some projects did not proceed to give priority to more important projects.
2. Some Camping Improvement projects were delayed due to design delays, cost estimate delays, and approval and tender delays. Also, some projects did not proceed to give priority to more important projects.
3. Projects in Cottage Lot Development were delayed due to design and cost estimate delays. Also, some projects were deferred pending completion of consultation with First Nations.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION

Under The Sustainable Development Act, each department is required to integrate into its annual reporting process information about progress made in incorporating sustainable development into its activities. The section below provides just a few examples of the many activities the Department has undertaken to incorporate or apply the Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development into its everyday operations and activities. Please note that a particular example may exemplify more than one principle and/or guideline.

Principles of Sustainable Development

1. Integration of Environmental, Social, Health and Economic Decisions

To meet the intent of Principle # 1, the Department would need to ensure:
a) its economic decisions and activities adequately reflect environmental, human health and social effects; and
b) its environmental and health decisions, activities and initiatives adequately take into account economic, human health and social consequences.

- In 2006/07, Conservation continued working with the First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership (FNFLP) toward a major hardwood products development in southern Manitoba. The Sustainable Forestry Unit assisted FNFLP in several areas throughout the year, including meeting with First Nations communities.
- In November 2006, a temporary pause on the issuance of permits for hog operations was announced. The suspension for issuance of permits for construction of confined livestock areas and manure storage facilities will be in place until the Clean Environment Commission has completed its review of the environmental sustainability of hog operations and provides a report to the Minister of Conservation.
- *The Classes of Development Regulation* under *The Environment Act* was amended to remove the exemption for temporary asphalt and concrete batch plants. Additional developments were defined to address emerging technologies such as biodiesel & ethanol plants.

2. Stewardship

To meet the intent of Principle # 2, the Department would need to ensure:
a) its plans, policies and decisions ensure the economy, the environment, human health and social well being are managed for the equal benefit of present and future generations; and
b) its decisions are balanced with tomorrow's effects.

- The *Tire Stewardship Regulation, 2006*, under *The Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act*, was passed in November 2006. A new industry association, Tire Stewardship Manitoba, began development of a program plan to manage scrap tires in Manitoba.
- Regulated programs developed under *The WRAP Act* recycled 90,543 tonnes of material in 2006/07, including 11,753 tonnes of rubber from scrap tires, over 64,766 tonnes of packaging and paper from residences and 14,024 tonnes of used oil products.

3. Shared Responsibility and Understanding

To meet the intent of Principle # 3, the Department would need to ensure:
a) it takes responsibility for sustaining the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being and be accountable for its decisions and actions in a spirit of partnership and open co-operation with all Manitobans;
b) its decisions and activities reflect Manitoba's shared common economic, physical and social environment;

c) it understands and respects differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations in its decision making and activities; and
d) it considers and reflects in its decisions and activities the aspirations, needs and views of the people of the various geographical and ethnic groups in Manitoba, including aboriginal peoples to facilitate equitable management of Manitoba's common resources.

- With the support of the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, the Manitoba Forestry Association's Woodlot Program has continued servicing its traditional client base and has expanded its program to include a satellite office with an Extension Officer in Swan River. Benefits to landowners in this area include the provision of technical services for woodlot management planning, additional assistance through technical and operational return visits and an education program in the form of field days, seminars, workshops and bus tours.
- Opaskwayak Cree Nation and Manitoba Conservation entered into a Joint Management of Resources Agreement at a signing ceremony in February 2007. The Agreement is a formal recognition of the community's traditional territory and commitment to cooperatively manage the area's renewable resources.
- A resource management symposium was organized at Peguis First Nation to increase liaison and interaction on resource management issues with the First Nations people, particularly students.
- The Department continued to support the "Re-Connecting with the Land" educational program developed in partnership with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Center and the Fur Institute of Canada that focuses on community studies, fishing, hunting and trapping. There has been considerable support for its continued development from individual First Nations, schools and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

4. Prevention

To meet the intent of Principle # 4, the Department would need to ensure:
a) its activities and decisions and legislation anticipate, and prevent or mitigate, significant adverse economic, environmental, human health and social effects, and
b) have particular careful regard to its decisions and actions whose impacts are not entirely certain but which, on reasonable and well-informed grounds, appear to pose serious threats to the economy, the environment, human health and social well being.

- Amendments to the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation* included new restrictions on fall and winter manure application in regularly inundated areas including the Red River Valley Special Management Area, new setback requirements for manure application on land adjacent to surface water, and new regulatory phosphorus thresholds limiting allowable application of manure to land.
- A three-phased Manitoba *Be Bear Smart* initiative was implemented to teach people how to reduce interactions with black bears thereby safeguarding human welfare and property.
- In consultation with the municipalities around Winnipeg, a Near-Urban Wildlife Strategy was developed to address human safety and property damage concerns, as well as to maintain and expand hunting opportunities in the near-urban area.

5. Conservation and Enhancement

To meet the intent of Principle # 5, the Department would need to ensure:
a) its activities and decisions maintain the ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems of the environment;
b) that renewable natural resources are harvested on a sustainable yield basis;
c) that those persons who have been allocated provincial resources make wise and efficient use of them; and

d) its programs and activities enhance the long-term productive capability, quality and capacity of natural ecosystems.

- A wood supply analysis and technical report were completed for FML#1 addressing new protected areas and caribou habitat maintenance requirements. Technical advisory committees were formed to guide the wood supply analysis for the Saskatchewan River and Pineland Forest Sections and Forest Management Unit 30. A consultant was hired to initiate the analysis work for the Pineland Forest Section. An analysis was conducted to evaluate the effect of FMU amalgamation on the established AAC in the Highrock Forest Section.
- The Hayes River was formally designated as a Canadian Heritage River in the summer of 2006, and the Red River was nominated for a similar designation.
- An additional 11,859 hectares of new protected areas were established, including areas added to several wildlife management areas, expansion of a park reserve, and Ducks Unlimited Canada private lands, bringing the total area of protected lands in Manitoba to over 5.4 million hectares.
- The dynamics of some big game populations are evaluated annually to provide input to management decisions. Information is gathered through: winter aerial surveys of some populations to estimate abundance, sex and age composition, recruitment and distribution, mail questionnaires to estimate harvests, hunter effort and hunter distribution, and some biological specimen collection to assess age and reproductive status. All data are entered into computer simulations (models) to estimate the consequences of alternative management options.

6. Rehabilitation and Reclamation

To meet the intent of Principle # 6, the Department would need to ensure:
a) it actively endeavours to repair or have repaired damage to, or degradation of, the environment; and
b) that the Department builds into its future allocations of and plans for the use of resources the requirement to rehabilitate and reclaim areas and resources that may be damaged.

- Manitoba declared Boreal Woodland Caribou as a threatened species in 2006 and a "Conservation and Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou" was published.
- Only eight Piping Plovers were observed and all were at one site - Grand Beach Provincial Park on Lake Winnipeg. Stewardship and recovery activities undertaken in 2006 included early installation of protective fencing and signage to reduce chances of nests or pairs being disturbed by humans or ATV's. Temporary fencing and signage was erected around feeding areas frequented by family groups and intensive all-day observations of plover family groups during the first two weeks to ensure maximum survival of young. Communicating and working with the public and parks staff to eliminate disturbance to pairs, nests and chicks was an important activity. Exclosure cages were also installed on all nests to protect them from predators, and a Piping Plover Guardian Program at Grand Beach increased public awareness and participation in conservation measures at this key nesting site.
- The Department previously identified and recorded approximately $39 million in environmental liabilities for 286 sites that are Department-owned sites or those that may become abandoned or orphaned sites but for which Conservation may become responsible. A process to confirm the value of booked liabilities and begin remediation of priority sites already identified for clean-up was initiated.

7. Global Responsibility

To meet the intent of Principle # 7, the Department would need to ensure:
a) it thinks globally when acting locally, recognizing there is economic, ecological and social interdependence among provinces and nation; and
b) it works co-operatively, within Canada and internationally, to integrate economic, environmental, human health and social factors in decision making while developing comprehensive and equitable solutions to problems.

- Manitoba continues to influence local and regional waterfowl management through participation and input into local, national and international working groups such as the Urban Goose Working Group and the Mississippi Flyway Council.
- The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a member of NatureServe International a network of 80 similar centres monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere, and also a member of NatureServe Canada. The CDC completes an annual exchange of data integrating Manitoba's data with the entire network. Information from the Canadian CDC databases is recognized by Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada Agency as being a key component of their efforts to monitor and protect species at risk.
- Manitoba Conservation staff and volunteers participated in the Piping Plover International Census, a range-wide nesting survey conducted once every five years.

Sustainable Development Guidelines

1. Efficient Uses of Resources

To meet the intent of Guidelines # 1, the Department would need to:

a) encourage and facilitate development and application and use of systems for proper resource pricing, demand management and resource allocation together with incentives to encourage efficient use of resources; and

b) employ full-cost accounting to provide better information for decision-makers.

- Planning was undertaken for construction of new provincial park facilities (e.g. campground office at Birds Hill Park) that will conform to the government's Green Building Policy, and will more efficiently use resources.

2. Public Participation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 2, the Department would need to:

a) use and establish forums which encourage and provide opportunity for consultation and meaningful participation in departmental decision making processes by Manitobans;

b) provide due process, prior notification and appropriate and timely redress for those adversely affected by departmental decisions and actions; and

c) strive to achieve consensus amongst citizens and the Department with regard to decisions affecting them.

- First Nations and public consultation processes were completed to renew the Park Reserve status for Pelican Islands, Walter Cook Caves, Goose Islands, Sturgeon Bay, Pemmican Island and Kinwow Bay Park Reserves. Consultations were also undertaken to add important colonial nesting bird habitat of the Cormorant Islands to the Grand Island Park Reserve. Many other consultations were held as part of ongoing park system planning activities.
- Consultation was undertaken with those people whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by Wuskwatim Generation Station and Transmission Line Projects; Louisiana Pacific Forest Management Plan; and the Southern Hardwood Development Project/First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership Forest Management Licence application.
- As part of the continuing review and evaluation of the Park District Service system, consultation with stakeholders was undertaken to develop a more effective system.

3. Access to Information

To meet the intent of Guideline # 3, the Department would need to:

a) improve and refine economic, environmental, human health and social information related to natural resources and the environment; and

b) provide and promote the opportunity for equal and timely access to its information by all Manitobans.

- The Information Technology Service Branch continued development of additional Web pages to meet the needs of the public. Conservation now has over 15,000 active Web pages containing a variety of useful information. For example, people planning to visit the Narcisse snake dens during peak emergence (spring) and return periods (fall) can access the Wildlife Branch's site to obtain status reports on snake numbers and den activity which are updated every few days during peak periods.
- A new, made-in-Manitoba Parks Reservation system was deployed in April 2006. Reservations were made available through a call centre, on-line or through 11 campground offices in 2006.
- Annual air quality statistics for 2005 were completed and made publicly available. Support for the release of near real-time air quality information continued.
- Production and printing of *Naturescape Manitoba* was completed in 2006. The educational book, with information on native species and project ideas, is designed to help organizations and individuals transform small urban and rural areas, including backyards, into wildlife habitat. Production was overseen by a Naturescape Manitoba Committee, comprised of representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Naturalists Society, the City of Winnipeg, Environment Canada and Fort Whyte Alive.

4. Integrated Decision Making and Planning

To meet the intent of Guideline # 4, the Department would need to:

a) encourage, facilitate, establish and ensure its decision making and planning processes are efficient, timely, accountable and cross-sectoral; and

b) incorporate into its decision making and planning an inter-generational perspective of future needs and consequences.

- The Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Planning Initiative ensures that future land, resource and development decisions address the environmental, social, health, cultural, and economic needs of First Nations, the public, local communities, and various stakeholders and interest groups in the area on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Conservation's WNO Secretariat provided administrative, planning and research support to its principal bodies, the WNO Council and the WNO Council of Chiefs. The WNO Council of Chiefs was incorporated under *The Corporations Act* to enable the 16 First Nation communities within the WNO planning area to receive and administer funding to develop land use plans for their respective traditional territories.

5. Waste Minimization and Substitution

To meet the intent of Guideline # 5, the Department would need to:

a) encourage and promote, within and outside of the Department, the development and use of substitutes for scarce resources where such substitutes are both environmentally sound and economically viable; and

b) reduce, reuse, recycle and recover the products the Department uses in its daily operations and encourage, promote and facilitate the 4 R's in society generally.

- In cooperation with Green Manitoba, Conservation continued to work to shift Manitoba's product stewardship approach to a regulated steward responsibility model with a focus on four waste minimization priorities: tires, blue box materials, household hazardous waste, and waste from electronic products (e-waste).

6. Research and Innovation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 6, a Department would need to:
a) encourage and assist in the research, development, application and sharing of knowledge and technologies which further economic, environmental, human health and social well-being.

- Eleven requests for scientific research permits were reviewed and recommended for approval, bringing the total number of new and ongoing research projects on non-game wildlife in the province to 24. Researchers from within and outside Manitoba investigated the biology and ecology of a variety of species ranging from endangered orchids and butterflies to frogs, snakes, small mammals and raptors.
- Through the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development, scholarships were awarded to two students in Manitoba – one for graduate research on biosystems engineering in the hog industry, the other for undergraduate studies that reflect a commitment to the principles of sustainable development.
- The Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) provided $3.2 million to support programs and projects that targeted development, implementation and promotion of environmental innovation, and sustainable development.

Sustainable Development Procurement Goals

1. Education, Training, and Awareness

To meet the intent of Goal #1, a department would need to ensure a culture that supports sustainable procurement practices exists within their department by:
a) increasing awareness about the benefits of Sustainable Development Procurement among departments, employees and vendors; and
b) expanding the knowledge and skills of procurement practitioners and end users.

- The Department continued to focus on its procurement education and training needs and supported the development of environmentally preferable product and services checklists for staff use. It also continued to adjust manuals and procedures to reflect sustainable development procurement guidelines, such as the Department's Contract Manual. Department staff involved in procurement must ensure sustainability is considered for all purchase requisitions.

2. Pollution Prevention and Human Health Protection

To meet the intent of Goal #2, a department would need to protect the health and environment of Manitobans from possible adverse effects of their operations and activities, and provide a safe and healthy working environment by:
a) reducing their purchase and use of toxic substances; and
b) reducing solid waste sent to landfill from Government of Manitoba owned or leased facilities occupied by the department.

- The Department amended janitorial contracts in order to reduce toxic substance use and replace with environmentally friendly products. In addition, the Department follows standards for waste management and recycling for all Conservation owned buildings and facilities. All offices are required to use recycled paper and remanufactured toner cartridges. Duplex copier equipment is required where volumes warrant.

3. Reduction of Fossil Fuel Emissions

To meet the intent of Goal #3, a department would need to reduce fossil fuel emissions of their operations and activities by:

a) reducing both consumption and emissions of vehicle fuels; and
b) as a substitute for regular fuels, increase their use of ethanol-blended fuels and alternative energy sources.

- The Department continued to use ethanol fuel, where available. The Department also continued to expand the introduction of alternative fuel, and hybrid vehicles into its fleet. A map identifying stations providing ethanol in relation to Conservation's government vehicle fleet is in use for reference of managers and drivers.

4. Resource Conservation

To meet the intent of Goal #4, a department would need to reduce their use and consumption of resources in a sustainable and environmentally preferable manner by:

a) reduce the total annual consumption of utilities including natural gas, electricity, propane, fuel oil and water in all leased or owned Government of Manitoba buildings and premises occupied by the department; and
b) within the context of reduced resource use, increase the proportion of environmentally preferable products and environmentally preferable services used by the department.

- The Department began conducting audits on Conservation owned buildings and developing realistic minimum requirements to undertake retrofits. Standard clauses for SD procurement on all purchase requisitions are reflected in the Department's Contract Manual.

5. Community Economic Development

To meet the intent of Goal #5, a department would need to ensure that their procurement practices foster and sustain community economic development by:

a) increasing the participation of Aboriginal peoples and suppliers in providing for the department's goods and services needs;
b) assisting in the development and growth of local environmental industries and markets for environmentally preferable products and services; and
c) increasing the participation of small businesses, community based businesses and Co-ops in the department's procurement opportunities.

- The Department continued efforts toward enhancing Aboriginal and local government procurement in support of community based economic development within the context of government's public tendering policies. The Department continued discussions on corporate responsibilities of local environmental industries, small businesses and co-ops through the Manitoba Procurement Council with Science, Technology, Energy and Mines, and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Revenue and Expenditure Summaries

Table RE.1
Reconciliation Statement

DETAILS	2006/07 ESTIMATES
2006/07 MAIN ESTIMATES	$113,566.7
Main Estimates Authority Transferred From:	
- Enabling Appropriations	
• Internal Reform Workforce Adjustment	1,029.1
2006/07 ESTIMATE	$114,595.8

Table RE.2
Revenue Summary By Source

For the year ended March 31, 2007 with comparative figures for the previous year

Actual 2005-06	Actual 2006-07	Increase (Decrease)	Source	Actual 2006-07	Estimate 2006-07	Variance	Expl. No.
			OTHER REVENUE:				
79.1	0.0	(79.1)	(a) Clean Environment Commission Cost Recovery	0.0	393.2	(393.2)	1.
589.4	550.5	(38.9)	(b) Environment Fees and Sundry	550.5	481.2	69.3	
8,577.2	8,278.6	(298.6)	(c) Forestry Fees and Sundry	8,278.6	10,369.4	(2,090.8)	2.
1,751.0	2,101.9	350.9	(d) Land Information Sales and Fees	2,101.9	2,706.0	(604.1)	
3,941.7	4,128.2	186.5	(e) Licence Sales by Vendors	4,128.2	3,947.3	180.9	
9,631.0	10,708.4	1,077.4	(f) Parks Fees	10,708.4	10,522.7	185.7	
3,127.9	5,975.4	2,886.8	(g) Regional Operations Fees and Cost Recovery	5,975.4	3,589.2	2,386.2	3.
95.1	357.1	222.7	(h) Wildlife Sundry	357.1	601.0	(243.9)	
422.3	319.0	(103.3)	(i) Sundry	319.0	303.3	15.7	
28,214.7	**32,419.1**	**4,204.4**	**Subtotal**	**32,419.1**	**32,913.3**	**(494.2)**	
			GOVERNMENT OF CANADA:				
151.0	151.0	0.0	(a) Migratory Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Agreement	151.0	151.0	0.0	
151.0	**151.0**	**0.0**	**Subtotal**	**151.0**	**151.0**	**0.0**	
28,365.7	**32,570.1**	**4,204.4**	**Total**	**32,570.1**	**33,064.3**	**(494.2)**	
34.2	**10.2**	**(24.0)**	**Sale of Government Assets**	**10.2**	**0.0**	**10.2**	

Explanation Number:

1. Revenue was lower as Clean Environment Commission hearings were not Class 3 and therefore costs were not recoverable.
2. Revenue was lower due to revenue deferred to 2008/09 pending approval of the Southern Hardwood Development Project, as well as reduced forest management license revenue due to reduced volume harvested and lower rates as a result of poor market conditions.
3. Revenue was higher due to increase in cost recovery for wildfire protection on Indian Reserve lands as per 2006/07 agreement with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Table RE.3
Expenditure Summary
For fiscal year ended March 31, 2007 with comparative figures for the previous year.

Estimate 2006/07	Appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Actual 2005/06	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
	12-1 Administration and Finance				
30.4	(a) Minister's Salary	30.3	29.7	0.6	
	(b) Executive Support				
774.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	814.8	545.5	269.3	1.
185.4	Other Expenditures	127.6	121.5	6.1	
	(c) Corporate Services				
1,159.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,094.1	1,033.4	60.7	
1,224.4	Other Expenditures	1,366.9	1,271.8	95.1	
	(d) Financial Services				
1,137.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,242.6	1,086.9	155.7	
388.5	Other Expenditures	349.5	369.5	(20.0)	
	(e) Human Resource Services				
1,262.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,077.3	1,055.6	21.7	
148.3	Other Expenditures	150.4	96.5	53.9	
	(f) Information Technology Services				
1,067.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,111.1	1,059.7	51.4	
110.0	Other Expenditures	95.1	88.6	6.5	
	(g) Clean Environment Commission				
241.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	276.9	235.1	41.8	
342.6	Other Expenditures	269.9	135.8	134.1	
8,071.9	**Total 12-1**	**8,006.5**	**7,129.6**	**876.9**	
	12-2 Conservation Support Services				
	(a) Computer Graphics				
424.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	366.3	407.9	(41.6)	
32.2	Other Expenditures	29.5	25.0	4.5	
	(b) Survey Services				
1,437.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,278.1	1,275.2	2.9	
454.8	Other Expenditures	420.1	389.8	30.3	
(1,570.7)	Less: Recoveries from other appropriations	(1,591.6)	(1,572.1)	(19.5)	
	(c) Distribution Centre				
315.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	350.4	341.1	9.3	
338.0	Other Expenditures	348.0	311.8	36.2	
(50.0)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	(65.9)	(29.1)	(36.8)	
369.2	(d) Seasonal Support	339.1	336.7	2.4	
1,751.1	**Total 12-2**	**1,474.0**	**1,486.3**	**(12.3)**	
	12-3 Regional Operations				
	(a) Headquarters Operations				
1,822.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,917.4	1,751.5	165.9	
1,093.9	Other Expenditures	922.7	1,018.4	(95.7)	
490.6	Problem Wildlife Control	475.9	466.9	9.0	
	(b) Northwest Region				

Estimate 2006/07	Appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Actual 2005/06	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
2,114.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,046.4	1,996.9	49.5	
835.6	Other Expenditures	2,836.1	768.5	2,067.6	2.
	(c) Northeast Region				
2,594.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,475.4	2,438.2	37.2	
1,060.0	Other Expenditures	1,053.7	987.7	66.0	
	(d) Interlake Region				
3,302.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,467.3	3,299.1	168.2	
1,235.5	Other Expenditures	1,235.5	1,082.8	152.7	
	(e) Eastern Region				
3,370.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,541.7	3,345.5	196.2	
1,033.8	Other Expenditures	913.2	814.0	99.2	
	(f) Western Region				
4,881.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,696.5	4,783.4	(86.9)	
1,542.9	Other Expenditures	1,539.2	1,446.2	93.0	
	(g) Red River Region				
3,291.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,089.2	3,170.5	(81.3)	
933.7	Other Expenditures	913.6	932.7	(19.1)	
	(h) Fire Program				
5,602.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,814.9	5,777.6	37.3	
9,220.1	Other Expenditures	9,505.6	8,691.6	814.0	3.
	(i) Livestock Operations Support				
347.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	446.1	291.6	154.5	
733.7	Other Expenditures	335.9	351.3	(15.4)	
	(j) Environment Operations				
708.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	422.6	705.6	(283.0)	
65.3	Other Expenditures	91.1	75.3	15.8	
46,280.6	**Total 12-3**	**47,740.0**	**44,195.3**	**3,544.7**	
	12-4 Conservation Programs				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
296.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	278.1	161.9	116.2	
403.7	Other Expenditures	354.3	369.1	(14.8)	
699.9	**Total 12-4A**	**632.4**	**531.0**	**101.3**	
	(b) Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative				
225.0	Other Expenditures	217.8	208.0	9.8	
225.0	**Total 12-4B**	**217.8**	**208.0**	**9.8**	
	(c) Parks and Natural Areas				
	(1) Administration				
419.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	533.6	463.5	70.1	
304.7	Other Expenditures	833.9	320.3	513.6	4.
263.7	Grant Assistance	263.7	258.7	5.0	
	(2) Planning and Development				
528.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	596.7	570.8	25.9	
248.8	Other Expenditures	235.9	106.9	129.0	
	(3) Park Operations and Maintenance				
12,274.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	12,669.6	12,063.8	605.8	
5,871.6	Other Expenditures	5,701.3	4,989.7	711.6	
(475.8)	Less: Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(468.9)	(455.9)	(13.0)	

Estimate 2006/07	Appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Actual 2005/06	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
	(4) Support Services				
581.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	702.7	580.3	122.4	
751.8	Other Expenditures	856.0	527.9	328.1	
	(5) Protected Areas				
214.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	243.2	198.2	45.0	
115.5	Other Expenditures	51.2	55.4	(4.2)	
200.0	Grant Assistance	200.0	100.0	100.0	
21,297.6	**Total 12-4C**	**22,418.9**	**19,779.6**	**2,639.3**	
	(d) Air Quality Management				
274.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	267.0	284.9	(17.9)	
69.3	Other Expenditures	60.9	69.4	(8.5)	
344.0	**Total 12-4D**	**327.9**	**354.3**	**(26.4)**	
	(e) Forestry				
	(1) Administration				
328.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	331.0	363.1	(32.1)	
329.1	Other Expenditures	338.0	332.5	5.5	
23.4	Grant Assistance	23.4	23.4	0.0	
	(2) Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis				
1,055.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	989.7	925.8	63.9	
753.0	Other Expenditures	626.7	599.6	27.1	
	(3) Forest Health and Renewal				
1,766.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,674.9	2,496.8	178.1	
4,118.2	Other Expenditures	3,203.3	3,209.9	(6.6)	
(1,324.5)	Less: Recoverable from Urban and Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(1,236.1)	(1,266.9)	30.8	
	(4) Forest Management and Development				
579.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	573.6	513.4	60.2	
976.8	Other Expenditures	280.9	322.1	(41.2)	
	(5) Sustainable Forestry Unit				
282.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	250.1	199.2	50.9	
218.0	Other Expenditures	279.7	173.8	105.9	
1,355.3	(6) Forest Regeneration Stock	1,237.9	1,220.8	17.1	
10,461.2	**Total 12-4E**	**9,573.1**	**9,113.5**	**459.6**	
	(f) Habitat Enhancement Fund				
50.0	Other Expenditures	50.0	50.0	0.0	
50.0	**Total 12-4F**	**50.0**	**50.0**	**0.0**	
	(g) Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection				
	(1) Administration				
491.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	453.2	450.5	2.7	
375.0	Other Expenditures	322.8	353.2	(30.4)	
211.0	Grant Assistance	209.0	207.0	2.0	
	(2) Game, Fur, and Problem Wildlife Management				
752.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	850.5	780.6	69.9	
440.8	Other Expenditures	394.8	438.5	(43.7)	
89.9	Grant Assistance	89.9	89.9	0.0	
	(3) Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring				
480.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	463.9	430.9	33.0	

Estimate 2006/07	Appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Actual 2005/06	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
76.7	Other Expenditures	77.2	72.5	4.7	
645.0	Grant Assistance	645.0	645.0	0.0	
	(4) Biodiversity Conservation				
379.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	374.5	383.3	(8.8)	
72.0	Other Expenditures	65.6	70.3	(4.7)	
350.4	(5) Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement	346.4	330.3	16.1	
4,363.9	**Total 12-4G**	**4,292.8**	**4,252.0**	**40.8**	
250.0 (h)	Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund	155.7	93.2	62.5	
250.0	**Total 12-4H**	**155.7**	**93.2**	**62.5**	
	(i) Pollution Prevention				
296.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	335.8	296.8	39.0	
92.1	Other Expenditures	92.6	85.5	7.1	
389.0	**Total 12-4I**	**428.4**	**382.3**	**46.1**	
	(j) Lands				
	(1) Crown Lands Operations				
351.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	333.7	253.8	79.9	
2,389.3	Other Expenditures	2,337.7	2,380.7	(43.0)	
	(2) Remote Sensing and Land Mapping Services				
1,160.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,059.7	1,166.3	(106.6)	
274.9	Other Expenditures	394.5	305.4	89.1	
(23.7)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	0.0	0.0	0.0	
4,152.9	**Total 12-4J**	**4,125.6**	**4,106.2**	**19.4**	
42,233.5	**Total 12-4**	**42,222.6**	**38,870.1**	**3,352.5**	
	12-5 Environmental Stewardship				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
172.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	164.2	161.7	2.5	
66.6	Other Expenditures	256.9	36.8	220.1	
250.0	Northern Initiatives	246.0	250.0	(4.0)	
125.3	Grant Assistance	118.9	116.5	2.4	
	(b) Sustainable Resource Management				
1,254.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	876.3	922.5	(46.2)	
272.5	Other Expenditures	152.5	198.6	(46.1)	
10.2	Grants Assistance	10.2	10.2	0.0	
	(c) Environmental Assessment and Licensing				
1,078.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,103.1	985.4	117.7	
249.4	Other Expenditures	255.4	201.7	53.7	
	(d) Aboriginal Relations				
269.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	285.0	214.5	70.5	
148.9	Other Expenditures	167.6	119.6	48.0	
1,127.8	(e) Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin	865.9	478.7	387.2	

Estimate 2006/07	Appropriation	Actual 2006/07	Actual 2005/06	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
5,025.0	**Total 12-5**	**4,502.0**	**3,696.2**	**805.8**	
1,195.9	**12-6 International Institute for Sustainable Development**	1,195.9	1,145.9	50.0	
1,195.9	**Total 12-6**	**1,195.9**	**1,145.9**	**50.0**	
	12-7 Minor Capital Projects				
430.4	(a) Equipment	357.1	281.2	75.9	
120.0	(b) Critical Heritage Marshes	119.8	119.7	0.1	
2,369.3	(c) Park Facilities	2,389.7	2,240.3	149.4	
850.0	(d) Cottaging and Camping Initiatives	767.8	979.6	(211.8)	
3,769.7	**Total 12-7**	**3,634.4**	**3,620.8**	**13.6**	
	12-8 Costs Related to Capital Assets				
	(a) Desktop Services				
130.6	(1) Amortization Expense	130.4	130.5	(0.1)	
218.6	(2) Enterprise Software Licenses	217.8	232.4	(14.6)	
	(b) General Assets				
1,243.2	(1) Amortization Expense	1,246.9	1,141.3	105.6	
454.0	(2) Interest Expense	485.6	397.2	88.4	
	(c) Infrastructure Assets				
2,161.0	(1) Amortization Expense	1,967.1	1,865.0	102.1	
2,060.7	(2) Interest Expense	1,925.9	1,674.6	251.3	
6,268.1	**Total 12-8**	**5,973.7**	**5,441.0**	**532.7**	
114,595.8	**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**	**114,749.1**	**105,585.2**	**9,163.9**	
1,888.0	B.4 Capital Investment -General Assets	**1,888.0**	**2,221.2**	**(333.2)**	
	B.13 Capital Investment-Infrastructure Assets				
4,445.0	(a) Parks Infrastructure Projects	3,873.7	1,327.0	2,546.7	
2,045.0	(b) Camping Improvements	737.1	949.3	(212.2)	
4,300.0	(c) Cottage Lots Development	2,772.8	1,048.3	1,724.5	
10.790.0	**Total B.13 Capital Investment-Infrastructure Assets**	**7,383.6**	**3,324.6**	**4,059.0**	
12,678.0	**TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT**	**9,271.6**	**5,545.8**	**3,725.8**	

Expenditure Summary Explanations

1. The increase of $269.3 in 2006/07 salary and benefit costs was mainly due to retirement and severance.
2. The increase of $2,067.6 in 2006/07 expenditures was mainly due to Grand Rapids/Forebay survey costs.
3. The increase of $814.0 in 2006/07 expenditures was due to increase in aircraft charter costs and the Radar Lake fire.
4. The increase of $513.6 in 2006/07 expenditures was due to Park District Service Fee related costs.

Table RE.4
Five Year Expenditure and Staffing Summary by Appropriation

For year ending March 31, 2003 – March 31, 2007

	ACTUALS/*ADJUSTED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE									
	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07	
	FTEs	$(000s)	FTEs	$(000s)	FTEs	$(000s)	FTEs	$(000s)	FTEs	$(000s)
Administration and Finance	87.93	6,611.8	91.33	7,600.2	90.33	7,462.9	92.33	7,129.6	91.33	8,006.5
Conservation Support Services	50.00	1,361.5	48.00	1,631.4	45.00	1,202.7	44.00	1,486.3	41.00	1,474.0
Regional Operations	498.86	41,333.4	485.86	41,759.6	471.36	42,275.9	462.86	44,195.3	468.36	47,740.0
Conservation Programs	423.65	36,945.9	416.65	38,648.7	403.65	38,129.7	399.06	38,870.1	379.33	42,222.6
Environmental Stewardship	39.00	3,175.1	38.00	3,438.3	35.00	3,594.7	36.00	3,696.2	42.00	4,502.0
International Institute for Sustainable Development		1,034.9		1,104.4		1,031.3		1,145.9		1,195.9
Minor Capital Projects		4,109.3		2,877.9		4,776.9		3,620.8		3,634.4
Costs Related to Capital Assets		6,545.6		5,435.1		5,241.5		5,441.0		5,973.7
Total Appropriations	**1,099.44**	**101,117.5**	**1,079.84**	**102,495.6**	**1,045.34**	**103,715.6**	**1,034.25**	**105,585.2**	**1,022.02**	**114,749.1**

*Adjusted figures reflect historical date on a comparable basis in those appropriations affected by re-organization, during the years under review.

CONSERVATION – Performance Reporting Table

The 2005/06 reporting year is the first year that a standardized Performance Measurement section appeared in Departmental Annual Reports. This section is another step in our process to provide Manitobans with a more complete picture of the activities of government and their impacts on the province. That process was begun in 2005 with the release of the document, *Reporting to Manitobans on Performance, 2005 Discussion Document,* which can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/finance/performance.

Performance indicators in departmental Annual Reports are intended to provide Manitobans with meaningful and useful information about government's activities, complementary to financial results. Some measures incorporate data collected by the provincial government, while others show data that are collected by external agencies. A range of existing, new and proposed measures may be reported in subsequent years, as the process continues to evolve.

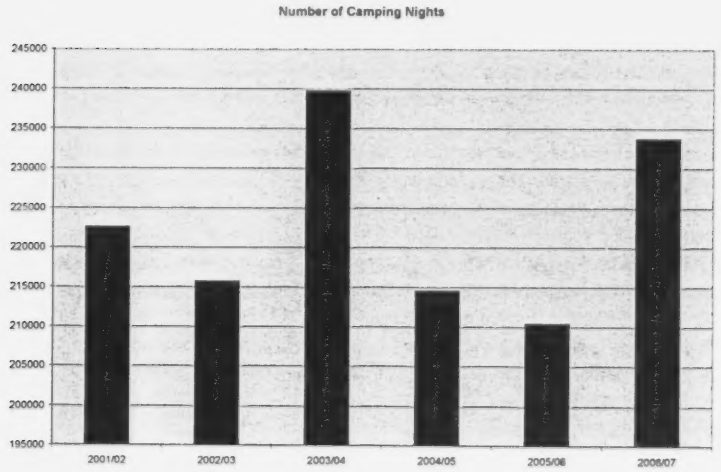
What are we measuring and how?	***Why is it important to measure this?***	***Where are we starting from?***	***What is the most recent available value for this indicator?***	***What is the trend over time for this indicator?***	***Comments/ recent actions/ report links***
Our progress towards expanding our network of protected areas, by measuring Hectares of protected land in Manitoba	Protected areas are important because they help ensure conservation of biodiversity, maintain natural cycles, provide pristine areas and preserve land for Aboriginal people to maintain their traditional activities. Measuring the growth in protected areas will tell us how well we are meeting our goal for protected lands that represent the biodiversity in each of Manitoba's natural regions.	The baseline measure for this is 350,000 hectares in 1990, when the Protected Areas Initiative began.	Currently, 5.4 million hectares or 8.4% of Manitoba is protected. This includes two national parks, 21 ecological reserves, all or parts of 42 provincial parks and interim protected park reserves, all or parts of 43 wildlife management areas, two areas designated under The Forest Act, and various parcels of private land owned by a conservation agency.	Since 1990, when the Protected Areas Initiative began, the area of protected lands has increased from 350,000 hectares to 5,480,000 hectares in 2006.	For further information on Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative, please see pages X of the report.

What are we measuring and how?	*Why is it important to measure this?*	*Where are we starting from?*	*What is the most recent available value for this indicator?*	*What is the trend over time for this indicator?*	*Comments/ recent actions/ report links*
The change in availability of wilderness-experience recreation opportunities for Manitobans by measuring ▪ number of improved campsites made available in the year ▪ number of new cottage lots made available in the year	It is important to measure the expansion of available wilderness recreation opportunities, represented here by new campsites and new cottage lots, because the ability to enjoy wilderness recreation is important to Manitobans. For many, the relative affordability of cottage properties is a major reason why Manitoba remains attractive as a place to live. In addition, Manitobans benefit from enhanced economic development opportunities in areas with increasing cottage and camping visitors, including tourist visits. For Manitobans, increased wilderness recreation also contributes to quality of life and healthy living, as they participate in hiking, cycling, paddling and swimming that usually go along with spending time in these areas.	The baseline measure for this is 2004/05. In 2004/05, there were 225 improved campsites made available to Manitobans. In 2004/05, there were 152 new cottage lots made available to Manitobans in the fiscal year, as part of the provincial commitment for 1,000 new cottage lots.	In 2006/07, there were 185 improved campsites made available to Manitobans. In 2006/07, there were 374 new cottage lots made available to Manitobans in the fiscal year, as part of the provincial commitment for 1,000 new cottage lots.	The Province has made significant commitments with respect to increasing camping and cottaging opportunities for Manitobans. In 2006/07, the provincial commitment for 1,000 new cottage lots was reached. The trend has demonstrated this commitment though increased sites and lots in recent years.	For further information on recreational opportunities for Manitobans, please see pages X of the report

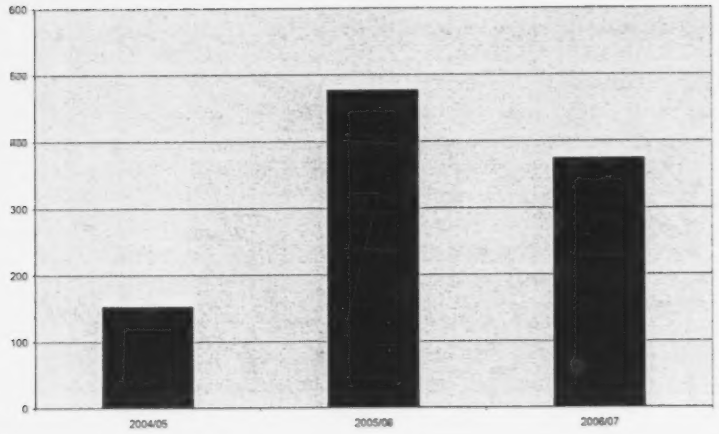
What are we measuring and how?	*Why is it important to measure this?*	*Where are we starting from?*	*What is the most recent available value for this indicator?*	*What is the trend over time for this indicator?*	*Comments/ recent actions/ report links*
Safety and security in provincial parks by measuring Provincial Parks Acts violations recorded in provincial parks, as a percentage of camping nights. (Excludes violations related to parking or park passes.)	Users of provincial parks have an expectation that there will be a safe and secure environment. It is important to maintain such an environment so that provincial parks can be used and enjoyed by all. Provincial Parks Act violations as a percent of camping nights is a measure that reflects the safety and security threats overall in parks as a percent of indirectly comparative activity in campgrounds.	The baseline measure for this is 615 total violations recorded in 2000/01, representing 0.30% of 206,838 camping nights.	There were 549 total violations recorded in 2006/07, representing 0.23% of 233,700 camping nights.	Ranging from a high of 0.30% (in 2000/01) to 0.23% (in each of the past three fiscal years), the trend shows that a large number of camping nights are incident-free; however, this measure does not indicate the severity of each event. The Department will be reporting on levels of severity and customer satisfaction in future.	For further information on safety and security in parks, please see pages X of the report.
How well people and wildlife are co-existing in the province, by measuring the number of "problem wildlife" incidents, by type of animal	A focus on problem wildlife management is important because problem wildlife can impact on life safety, private property and public infrastructure.	The baseline measure for this is 2000/01, where a total of 3,205 reports of problem wildlife were received. They were as follows: • Black Bear – 1,311 • Polar Bear - 169 • Beaver - 303 • Big Game - 762 • Wolf - 179 • Migratory Birds – 481	In 2006/07, there were a total of 2,330 problem wildlife reports. They were as follows: • Black Bear – 1,150 • Polar Bear - 264 • Beaver - 217 • Big Game - 285 • Wolf - 186 • Migratory Birds - 228	The trend of major wildlife categories has been fairly stable over the past seven years and the measure is a reflection of level of disturbance resulting from people and wildlife sharing the outdoors. Variances can be based on environmental or weather conditions and the Department's and public's reaction to incidents.	In May, 2006 the Bear Smart initiative was launched, and includes: roadside signs, brochures and fact sheets, an information campaign and free community workshops to help to safeguard humans, minimize

What are we measuring and how?	*Why is it important to measure this?*	*Where are we starting from?*	*What is the most recent available value for this indicator?*	*What is the trend over time for this indicator?*	*Comments/ recent actions/ report links*
					property, crop and livestock damage, and maintain a healthy bear population. For further information on the Problem Wildlife Program, please see pages X of the report.
Security of communities and of forestry-related economic development in high priority forested areas, by measuring hectares of forest burned in "Red Zone" areas as a percentage of total hectares burned in the province (or as per cent of Red Zone itself – confirm) "Red Zone" is highest priority forest zone.	Protection of people, property and the surrounding forested areas helps contribute to viable communities in these areas that are primarily in the North.	The baseline measure for this is in 2000/01, when 0.23% of the highest priority forest protection zone (Red Zone) was burned.	In 2006/07, 0.045% of the highest priority forest protection zone (Red Zone) was burned.	There is no clear directional trend for this measure, because risk varies widely from year to year. For data over seven years, see Table below. The risk of forest fire varies from year to year, primarily due to weather conditions. Although the primary original causes of forest fires include human activities and lightning strikes, the severity and impact of forest fires is mainly dependent on how wet or dry are the conditions at the time.	For further information on the Fire Program, please see pages X of the report.

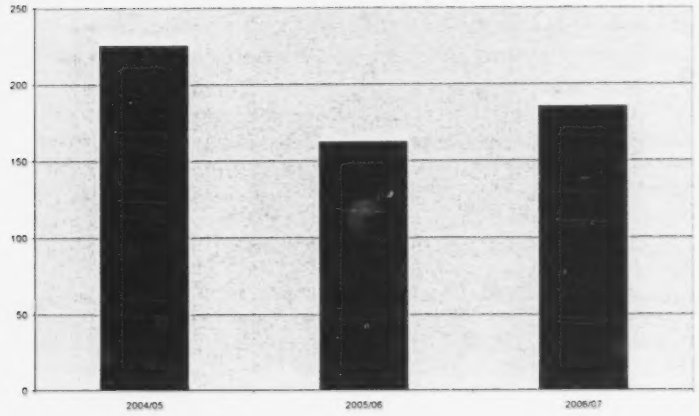
What are we measuring and how?	*Why is it important to measure this?*	*Where are we starting from?*	*What is the most recent available value for this indicator?*	*What is the trend over time for this indicator?*	*Comments/ recent actions/ report links*
				The Department uses an Initial Attack Preparedness process to prioritize early strikes on the most vulnerable and high priority areas, in order to limit the impact as much as possible.	

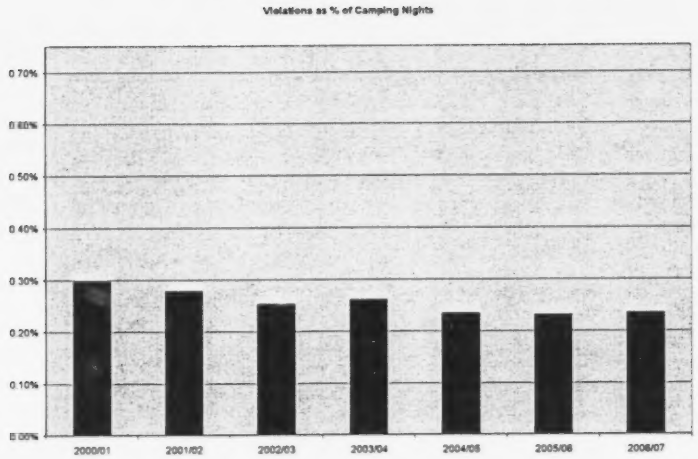


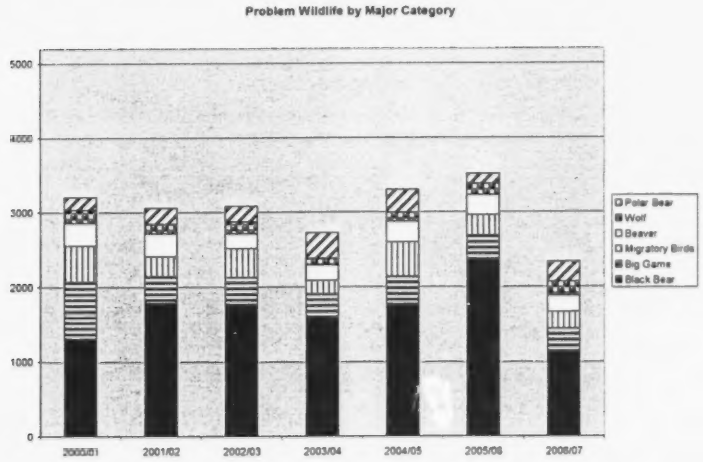
Newly Developed Cottage Lots In-Year

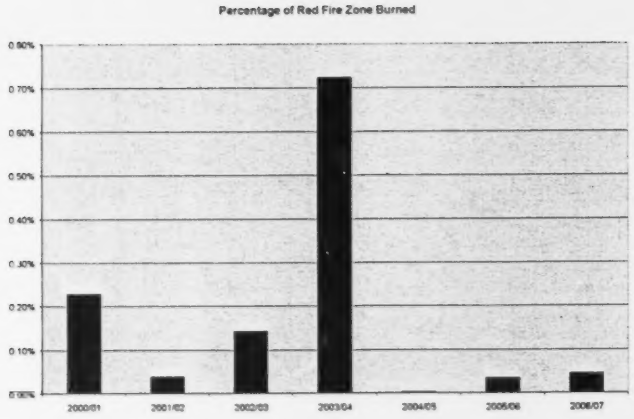


Improved Campsites In-Year




Violations as % of Camping Nights
0.70%
0.60%
0.50%
0.40%
0.30%
0.20%
0.10%
0.00%
2000/01
2001/02
2002/03
2003/04
2004/05
2005/06
2006/07


Problem Wildlife by Major Category
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
2000/01
2001/02
2002/03
2003/04
2004/05
2005/06
2006/07
Polar Bear
Wolf
Beaver
Migratory Birds
Big Game
Black Bear


Percentage of Red Fire Zone Burned
0.80%
0.70%
0.60%
0.50%
0.40%
0.30%
0.20%
0.10%
0.00%
2000/01
2001/02
2002/03
2003/04
2004/05
2005/06
2006/07

LEGISLATION

The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter C 205
The Crown Lands Act, C.C.S.M. chapter C 340

- sections 1 and 5, subsection 7.2(1), section 8, subsections 12(2), 13(1) and (2), 13.1(1), sections 19, 22 and 27 to 29.
- sections 4, 6 to 7.1, 10, 14, 16 to 18, 21, subsection 23(3), section 24, subsections 25(1) and (2) and sections 26 and 30 to 35, insofar as they relate to the administration of Crown lands not designated as agricultural Crown lands, including setting fees and rents and issuing work permits but excluding other dispositions.

The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter D 12
The Dutch Elm Disease Act, C.C.S.M. chapter D 107
The Ecological Reserves Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 5
The Endangered Species Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 111
The Environment Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 125
The Forest Act, C.C.S.M. chapter F 150
The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter H 15
The International Peace Garden Act, C.C.S.M. chapter I 70
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act, C.C.S.M. chapter N 30
[except as it relates to water and fisheries]
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, C.C.S.M. chapter N 60
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, 1963, C.C.S.M. chapter N 70
The Ozone Depleting Substances Act, C.C.S.M. chapter O 80
The Provincial Parks Act, C.C.S.M. chapter P 20
[except section 22 and clause 33(u) and the Debt Certificate Regulation, M.R. 140/96]
The Plants Pests and Diseases Act, C.C.S.M. chapter P 90
[that portion of clause 16(c) that pertains to arborists and clause 16(i)]
The Polar Bear Protection Act, C.C.S.M chapter P 94
The High-Level Radioactive Waste Act, C.C.S.M. chapter R 10
The Resource Tourism Operators Act, C.C.S.M. chapter R 119.5
The Surveys Act, C.C.S.M. chapter S 240
[Part II]
The Sustainable Development Act, C.C.S.M. chapter S 270
[except the Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund of the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund]
The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 40
The Wildfires Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 128
The Wildlife Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 130
[except that portion of clause 89(e) that applies to compensation for damage to crops caused by wildlife as it pertains to big game and migratory waterfowl]
The Wild Rice Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 140
[except subsections 10(1) and 11(1)]

As per Schedule "E", Order in Council No. 418/2006

PUBLICATIONS

Corporate Services

Manitoba Conservation: Career Guide

Operations

Manitoba firearm accidents report : hunting and non-hunting
Cottage & Country Fire Safety Checklist
Homeowner's Firesmart Manual

Environmental Operations

Wastewater Homeowners Manual Booklet
Protect Manitoba's Water - Discover the advantages of using a holding tank to manage wastewater

Forestry

Forintek Canada Corporation - Helping Manitoba's Forest Products Industry Add Value and Increase Productivity

Geographic Names

Holm, G., Buchner, A., eds. **A Place of Honour: Manitoba's War Dead Commemorated in Its Geography**. (also available in French)

Parks and Natural Areas

Beach safety (bilingual)
Beach safety for groups (bilingual)
Birds Hill, Cedar Bog self-guiding trail
Birds Hill, Nimowin self-guiding trail
Birds Hill, Pine Ridge self-guiding trail
Camp Morton Provincial Park interpretive map
The camper's guide (English and French versions)
Canadian Heritage Rivers System - Towards a management plan for the Hayes River - Workshop materials - May 2003
Chitek Lake Park Reserve – Phase 1 public consultation brochure
Clearwater Lake Provincial Park interpretive map
Duck Mountain Management Plan - Booklet
Fall camping in Manitoba
Comfort Camping with Yurts and Cabins
Group use areas (bilingual)
Hayes River Education Kit - Teachers manual & CDRom
Hecla/Grindstone, Grassy Narrows Marsh
Hecla/Grindstone, Hecla Village self-guiding trail
Junior naturalist and park explorer booklets
Manitoba 2006 Provincial Parks Guide
Parks Reservation Service

Park Explorer and Junior Naturalist - Children's activity booklets
The petroforms of Manitoba
Pinawa Dam, Old Pinawa self-guiding trail
Regular/boundary changes for Provincial Parks – Summary information
River Road, Kennedy House
Spruce Woods, Spirit Sands self-guiding trail, Devils Punch Bowl hiking trail
Towards a management plan for the Hayes River - Summary of workshop comments
Turtle Mountain, Wildlife self-guiding trail
Volunteer Campground Host Program
Whiteshell, Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary

Sustainable Resource Management

Crown Land Classification Committee. Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans 2004

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

Murray K. Mixed-grass Prairie Inventory for Manitoba - update 2006
Westhorpe, P. (contributing editor). 2006. Naturescape Manitoba. Manitoba Naturalist's Society. 285 pp.
Manitoba 2006 Hunting Guide
Trapping Guide 2006/07
Living with White-Tailed Deer – A Homeowner's Guide bilingual brochure and PDF
Living with Wildlife in Manitoba – The Coyote brochure English and PDF
Be Bear Smart – FAQ brochure
Be Bear Smart – Activity Guide
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